Black Butler
YANA TOBOSO
XX

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CHAPTER 93

In the morning : The Butler, Descending

はあ～～～～～
HAAAAAR
WHADDAWE GOTTA DO TO GET THE YOUNG MASTER BACK TO NORMAL?
W-WE FINALLY MANAGED TO GET HIM BACK IN BED, WE DIIID!
CEASE, I PRAY YOU.
"AN EYE FOR AN EYE"... AS THEY SAY.
PERHAPS WE SHOULD TRY SHOCKING HIM OUT OF IT AGAIN?
IN TIMES LIKE THIS, WE MUST NOT SUCCUMB TO PANIC OR IMPATIENCE...
...WE MUST SIMPLY WATCH OVER HIM.
I AM CERTAIN THE YOUNG MASTER IS EXPERIENCING EMOTIONAL TURMOIL.
THE BEST MEDICINE FOR THAT WHICH AILS THE HEART AND MIND IS REST.

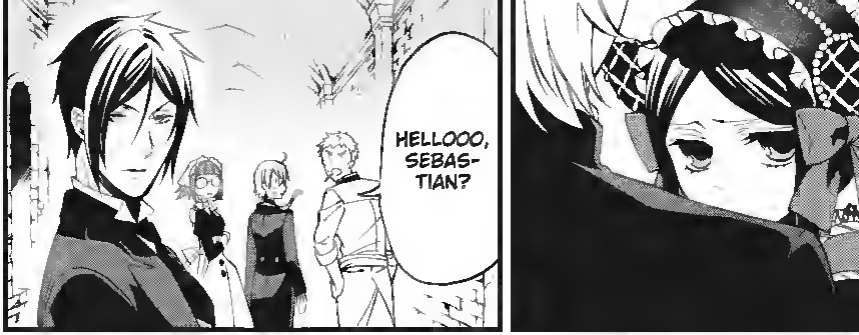
.....

KA CLICK!
HEY.

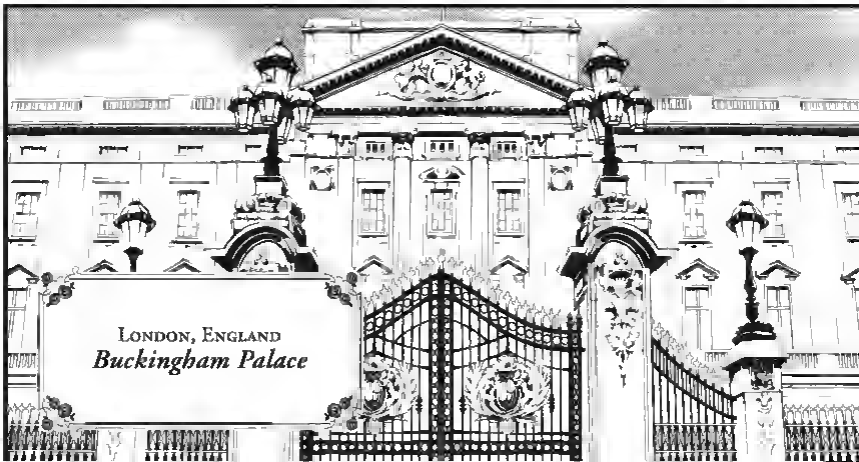
I AIN'T SO GOOD WITH THAT OCCULT STUFF
MAGIC POWER AND ALL THAT DOESN'T REALLY CLICK WITH ME.
SO WHAT THE HELL IS THIS "MIASMA" THAT'S MADE OUR YOUNG MASTER ACT LIKE THAT?

GU (SWIP)
DON'T GET UP TO ANYTHING FUNNY WHILE WE'RE GONE.

.....
WE'RE HEADING TO THE VILLAGE ASSEMBLY TO DISCUSS THE CASE OF HERR WOLFMAN.


HELLOOO, SEBAS-TIAN?

ALL THAT HAS HAPPENED THIS TIME AROUND PUTS THIS CASE WELL OUTSIDE MY PURVIEW, SO...
...PERHAPS IT IS BEST TO CONTINUE TO WAIT AND SEE FOR A LITTLE WHILE YET.
はぁ…
HAA (SIGH)


London, England
Buckingham Palace

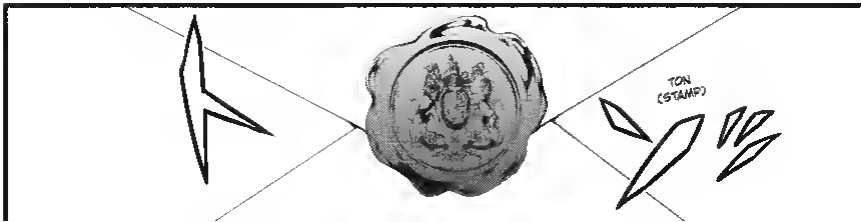
YOUR MAJESTY.
WITH REGARD TO THE PLANT FROM THE WERE-WOLVES' FOREST SENT BY THE WATCH-DOG...
...HERE ARE THE RESULTS OF THE ANALYSIS.
THANK YOU.
PUT IT THERE AND LEAVE ME, WON'T YOU?
YES, YOUR MAJESTY.
KOTO
KOTO (CLING)

THEY'RE IN GERMANY NOW, AREN'T THEY?
HOW IN BLAZES DID THEY GET IT SENT OVER ALREADY?
IT ARRIVED TOO QUICKLY, BY FAR.
IT WOULDN'T BE UNUSUAL FOR HIM TO HAVE HIS OWN PERSONAL DELIVERY ROUTE.
BUT IT'S THE EARL WE'RE TALKING ABOUT. HE HAS THE UNDERWORLD IN THE PALM OF HIS HAND.
NO IDEA.
パタン (SHUT)
パラ (FWIP)
!
THERE'S SOMETHING A BIT OFF ABOUT THAT LOT, ISN'T THERE...?

SU (POP)
ORO (PANIC)
YOUR MAJESTY?
ORO
OH MY. WHAT SHALL I DO, JOHN?
HOW FRIGHTENING...
THIS IS AWFUL .....
BURU (SHAKE)
AAH!
AAALBERT, YOU'RE HERE, AREN'T YOGGU!!?
BE CALM, DEAR VICTORIA!
I AM RIGHT HERE BESIDE YOU!
GATA
GATA (CLATTER)
YES, QUITE RIGHT! I SHALL DO MY BEST, ALBERT!
OF COURSE! I AM ALWAYS HERE FOR YOU! SO HANG IN THERE, VICTORIA!

SARA (SCRITCH)
SARA
FOR THE SAKE OF A WONDERFUL WORLD...

...I MUST HAVE THE HUNTSMAN SLAY SCARY MISTER WOLF POSTHASTE.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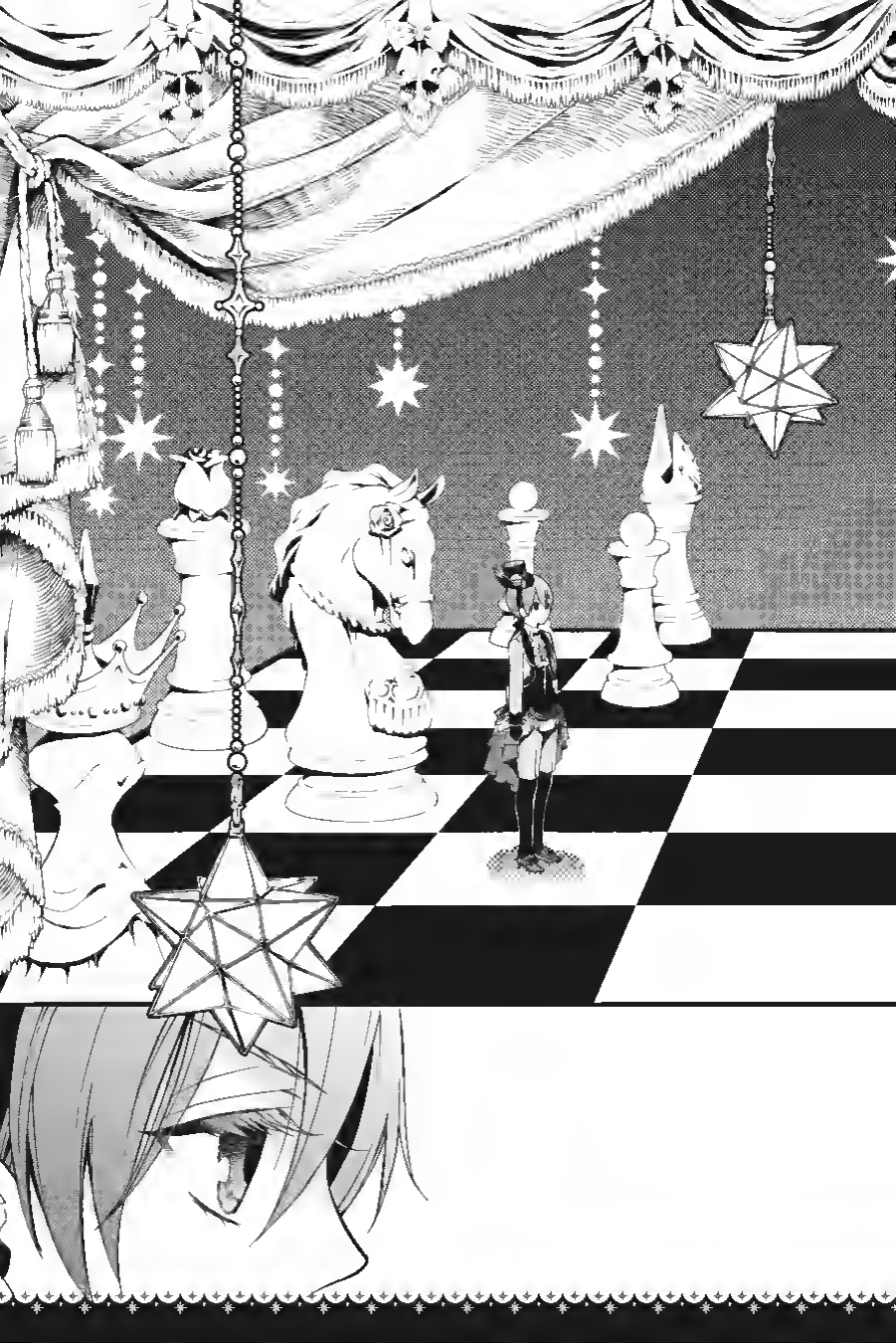


IT ISN"T LIKE YOU TO BE STOPPED DEAD IN YOUR TRACKS THIS WAY
...I'M FRIGHTENED.
WHAT'RE YOU SO SCARED OF?
IT'S PITCH-BLACK...
I CAN'T SEE ANYTHING.

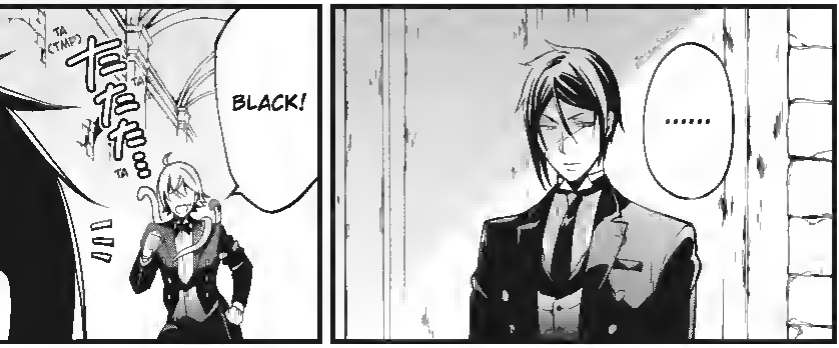
THEN WHY...
...ARE YOU STILL HERE?
HEH HEH.
WHEN IT COMES TO YOU, I KNOW ALL THERE IS TO KNOW.
HERE, LET ME PROVE IT TO YOU.
THE TRUTH IS, YOU'RE TERRIFIED OF CONFRONTING IT.

!
THE "PROOF OF SIN" NEXT TO YOU.
I'M SORRY.
THAT WAS UNKIND OF ME.

BUT I...!
...YOU CAN JUST STAY HERE FOREVER.
IF YOU'RE GOING TO GO AROUND MAKING A FACE LIKE THAT...
BUT, WELL...
YOU KNOW THAT IF YOU STAY HERE, YOU WON'T FEEL ANY MORE PAIN, RIGHT?
WHY DO YOU HESITATE?

.....I UNDER-STAND.
TAKE ALL THE TIME YOU NEED TO THINK IT OVER.

YOUNG MASTER...
Ugh...
Ugh... Uu...!


TA (TAP) TA TA TA
BLACK!
.....

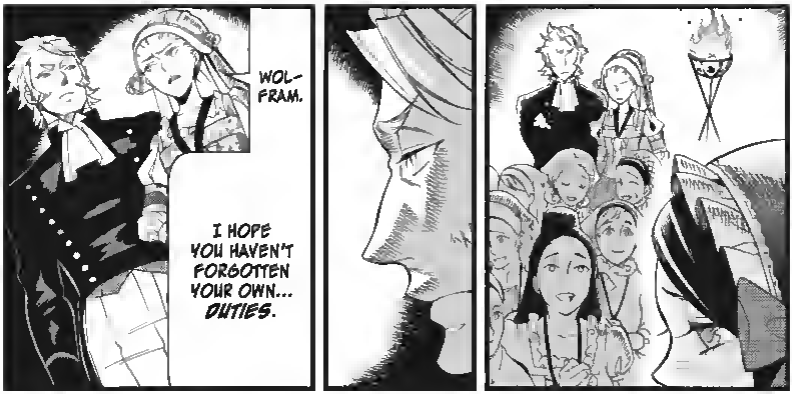
SHAAA (HISS)
HAVE I GOT THE SCOOP OF THE CENTURY FOR YOU, OLD BOY!
—SAYS OSCAR.
WELL-DONE SNEAKING IN THERE
OSCAR'S BACK!
—SAYS GOETHE.
SO HOW DID IT GO?

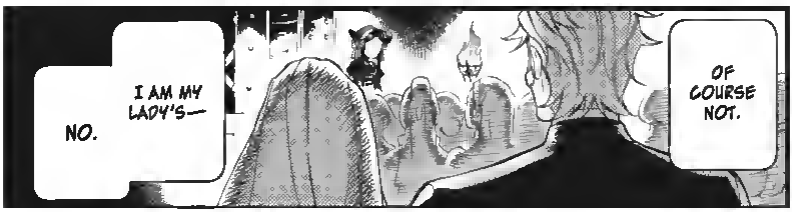
ZAWA
ざわ
ZAWA (MURMUR)
ざわ
HERR WOLFMAN MUST, AFTER ALL, BE TAKING ISSUE WITH THE OUTSIDERS...
...IN PARTICULAR THE MALES STAYING IN WOLFSSCHLUCHT, DON'T YOU THINK?

MISTRESS SULLIVAN!
.....
DRIVE THE INTRUDERS OUT!
THE NUMBER OF VICTIMS WILL ONLY GROW IF THEY REMAIN.
MISTRESS SULLIVAN, PLEASE PROTECT THIS VILLAGE!

DO YE REJOICE TO SEE THY PEOPLE SACRIFICED ALL BECAUSE OF SOME OUTLAND-ERS!?
WHEREFORE D'YE DITHER, EMERALD WITCH!?
CER-TAINLY NOT!!
BEFORE YE HOLD FORTH ABOUT YOUR INFATU-ATION WITH THE WORLD BEYOND ...
...SET YE FIRST TO PERFECTING THE ULTIMATE SPELL!
ONLY THEN SHALL HERR WOLFMAN'S ANGER BE QUELLED.
.....
GYU (CLENCH)
VERY WELL.

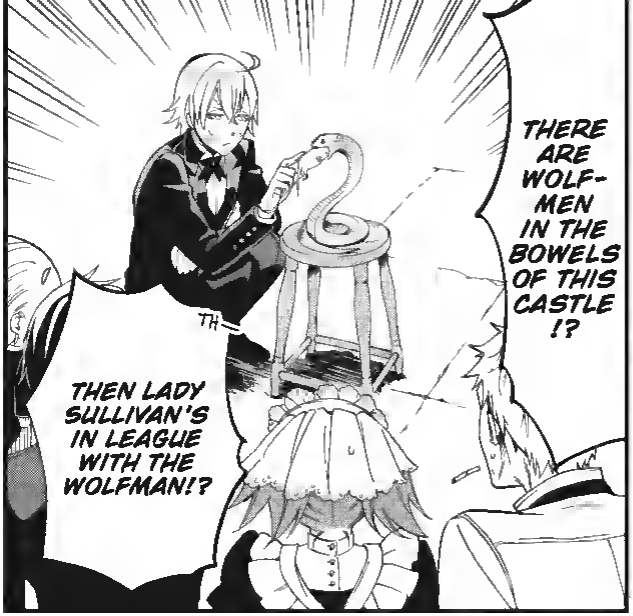
I WILL HAVE THEM LEAVE THE VILLAGE...
...BEFORE TOMORROW IS OUT.


WOL-FRAM.
I HOPE YOU HAVEN'T FORGOTTEN YOUR OWN... DUTIES.

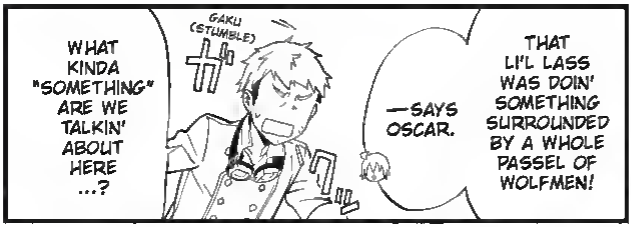

NO.
I AM MY LADY'S—
OF COURSE NOT.

I AM BUTLER TO THE "EMERALD WITCH."
THAT MUCH IS SET IN STONE.

AS LONG AS YOU'RE CLEAR ON IT.
THEN, WE LEAVE IT TO YOU TO SEE THEM OFF.
<JA.>


THERE ARE WOLF-MEN IN THE BOWELS OF THIS CASTLE!?
TH—
THEN LADY SULLIVAN'S IN LEAGUE WITH THE WOLFMAN!?

—HUNH!?


WHAT KINDA "SOMETHING" ARE WE TALKIN' ABOUT HERE ...?
GAKU (STUMBLE)
—SAYS OSCAR.
THAT LI'L LASS WAS DOIN' SOMETHING SURROUNDED BY A WHOLE PASSEL OF WOLFMEN!

BUT THE LOOK OF SHEER PANIC ON LADY SULLIVAN'S FACE WHEN THE YOUNG MASTER WAS ATTACKED...
...I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT WAS AN ACT. I JUST CAN'T.

HOW DARE YOU! WE REMEMBER EVERYTHING RIGHT UP THROUGH YESTERDAY, THANKS VERY MUCH!
—SAYS WORDSWORTH.
WELL, GUESS THAT'S THE BEST I'M GONNA GET OUT OF A SNAKE.
"WHAT KIND" ...? THIS AND THAT!
—SAYS OSCAR.

...WHY DON'T WE TAKE A PEEK IN THE CELLAR WHILE WE GOT THE CHANCE?
ER...
NO ONE'S HOME NOW AND ALL -
THE WOLFMEN'S ATTACKS MAY ACTUALLY BE AGAINST HER WISHES.
SHE WAS ALSO SHAKEN WHEN A VILLAGER WAS HARMED.
IT MUST HAVE "SOMETHING LIKE MAGIC" CAST UPON IT TO ALERT THE RESIDENTS TO THE PRESENCE OF INTRUDERS.
...THERE WAS A TALISMAN-LIKE OBJECT IN THE ENTRANCE.
WHEN I OPENED THE HIDDEN DOOR EARLIER...
...WELL ...
...TRICKS OR NO, IT MATTERS NOT TO ME.
—SAYS OSCAR.
SO THAT'S WHY HE RUSHED OVER BACK THEN.

WH-WHAT DO YOU PLAN TO DO, WHAT?
YOU LOT, IF HERR WOLFRAM RETURNS...
...CAN I COUNT ON YOU TO BUY ME SOME TIME?

IT GOES WITHOUT SAYING THAT I CAN INFILTRATE A ROOM AND NOT BE FOUND OUT.
I AM THE BUTLER OF THE PHANTOM-HIVE FAMILY.

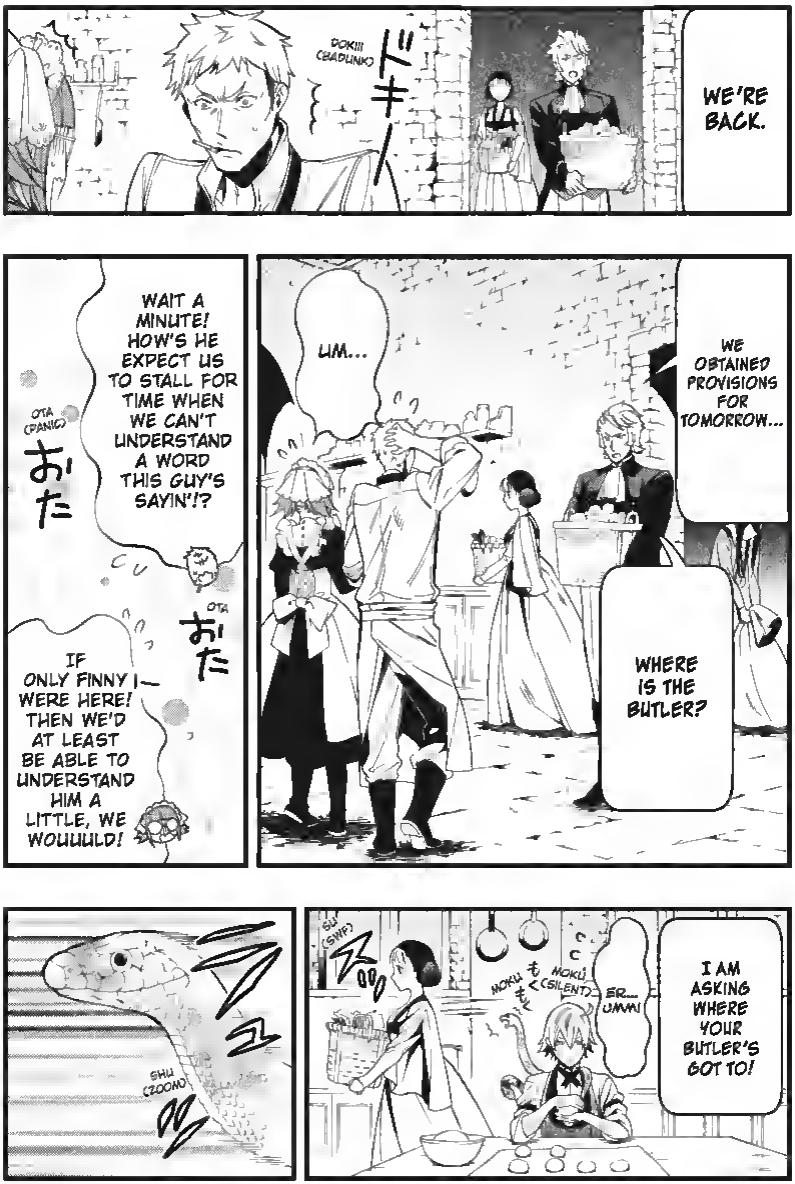
OOOO (FWOOSH)
HOHH...
THIS IS RATHER A SIGHT TO BEHOLD.
...WELL!
THAT MERELY REQUIRED A FEAT OF STRENGTH.

HIRARI (FLUTTER)
ひらりっ

OOO

ゴオオオオ
GOOOOH (WHOOOSH)
SUTO (TMP)

THIS IS IN THE "THEBAN ALPHA-BET," ALSO KNOWN AS THE WITCHES' ALPHA-BET...
HOW TERRIBLY NOSTALGIC.
THIS MUST BE WHAT THEY CALL A MAGIC STAFF.
IS IT MADE FROM A VARIETY OF CALCITE ...?
COULD THIS BE—?
OOOO (FWOOSH)
O
P
F
C
H
HA (GASP)


WE'RE BACK.
DOKIII (HADLINK)
ドキ
I AM ASKING WHERE YOUR BUTLER'S GOT TO!
SU (SWIP)
HOKU もぐ
HOKU (SILENT)
ER... UMM
SHU (ZOOM)
WHERE IS THE BUTLER?
UM...
WE OBTAINED PROVISIONS FOR TOMORROW...
WAIT A MINUTE! HOW'S HE EXPECT US TO STALL FOR TIME WHEN WE CAN'T UNDERSTAND A WORD THIS GUY'S SAYIN'!?
OTA (PANIC)
おた
OTA
おた
IF ONLY FINNY I— WERE HERE! THEN WE'D AT LEAST BE ABLE TO UNDERSTAND HIM A LITTLE, WE WOUUUUD!

NYURURIN (SLITHER)
にゅるるんっ
!?
NYURU
にゅる
N-NO!
NYURURIN
にゅるるん
NOT THERE ...!
BIKU (JOLT)
ビクッ
AH!?
NO, STO—!
MOZO (SQUIRM)
もぞ
もぞ
MOZO
ZURU (WRIGGLE)
ズルルル

IT WOULD BE A SHAME IF YOU WERE BITTEN.
SU (SWIP)
PLEASE HOLD STILL.
EH!?
MMNNNN!
BIKU (TWITCH) BIKUN (JOLT)
ZURU (DRAG)
SFX: HENYA (COLLAPSE)
OH DEAR.
PLEASE EXCUSE OUR SERVANT'S GRAVE DIS-COURTESY.
SHAAA (HISS)
HMPH.

I THINK IT WOULD BE BEST IF OSCAR COOLED HIS HEAD OUTSIDE.
...
COME WITH ME, SNAKE.
THE LOT OF YOU ARE TO BEGONE FROM THIS VILLAGE ON THE MORROW.
WE CANNOT AFFORD TO STOKE THE FIRES OF HERR WOLFMAN'S RAGE ANY FURTHER.
.....
AS YOU WISH.

EH?
SHAAA (HISS)
UGGGH, OSCAR, YOU LETCH!
—SAYS EMILY.
AND BOY, HAVE I GOT ANOTHER BIG SCOOP FOR YOU!
SUUU (SSS)
—SAYS OSCAR.
I DID IT TO SNIFF HER!
IT'S NOT LIKE I COILED AROUND HER TO SHOVE MY FACE IN HER BOSOM AND FEEL HER UP!
SHE SMELLED LIKE THE WOLFMAN!
—SAYS OSCAR
THAT WOMAN!

HOHH... IS THAT RIGHT?
THEN, IT'S TRUE, AFTER ALL—
PLEASE PARDON MY RUDE INTER-RUPTION.
HA (GASP)
はっ
A HORSE?
DO EXCUSE ME.
FUFUUU (SNORT)
CRUNCH

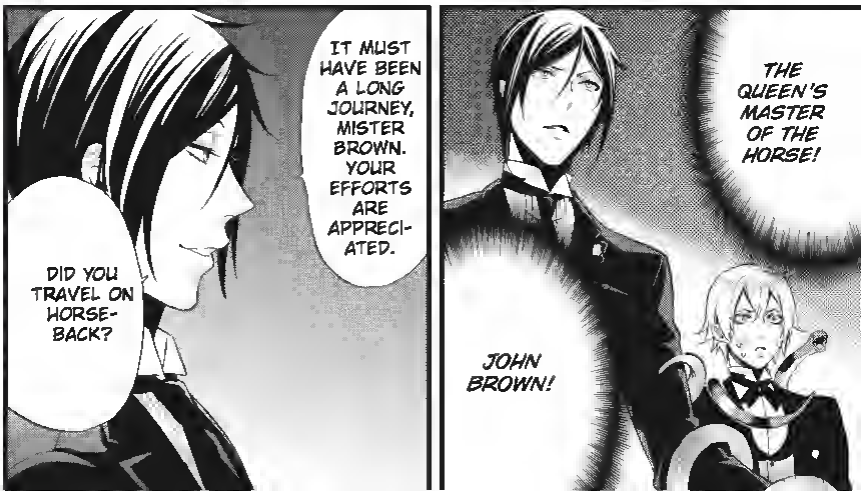
I HAVE COME TO DELIVER A LETTER FROM HER MAJESTY, THE QUEEN.
JOHN BROWN!?
THE QUEEN'S MASTER OF THE HORSE—

Black Butler

Chapter 94

At noon : The Butler, Exasperated

I HAVE COME TO DELIVER A LETTER FROM HER MAJESTY, THE QUEEN.
ZA CCRUNCH?


IT MUST HAVE BEEN A LONG JOURNEY, MISTER BROWN. YOUR EFFORTS ARE APPRECI-ATED.
DID YOU TRAVEL ON HORSE-BACK?
THE QUEEN'S MASTER OF THE HORSE!
JOHN BROWN!

I AM GLAD TO SEE YOU BOTH UNAFFECTED BY THE WOLFMAN'S MIASMA.
...IS THAT SO?
SHAAA (HISS)
I WOULDN'T FORCE MY FAVOURITE EQUINE TO TREAD ON SUCH A ROUGH ROAD.
BURURURU (NICKER)
GABUUU (CHOMP)
NEVER!
YES, YES THERE'S A GOOD LAD.
PLEASE ALLOW ME TO ACCEPT THAT LETTER ON HIS BEHALF.
I AM TERRIBLY SORRY. THE MASTER HAS FALLEN ILL AND IS CONVALESCING AT PRESENT.
BY THE WAY, WHERE IS THE EARL?
CHEERS.
MOJYA (MESSY)
...IS THE VERBAL MESSAGE I WAS INSTRUCTED TO PASS ALONG WITH IT.
"IT'S A MATTER OF GREAT URGENCY, SO READ IT RIGHT AWAY!"
MOST UNFORTUNATE.

THE LETTER DEMANDS IMMEDIATE ATTENTION.
SUU (SHOVE)

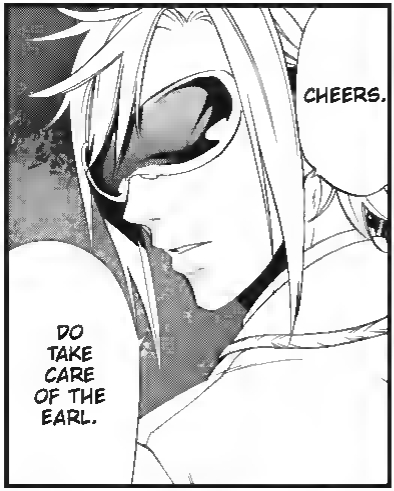
I HAVE NO CHOICE.
LET'S TRY THIS AGAIN. MIGHT YOU EXAMINE THE CONTENTS OF THE LETTER, MISTER BUTLER?
ME?

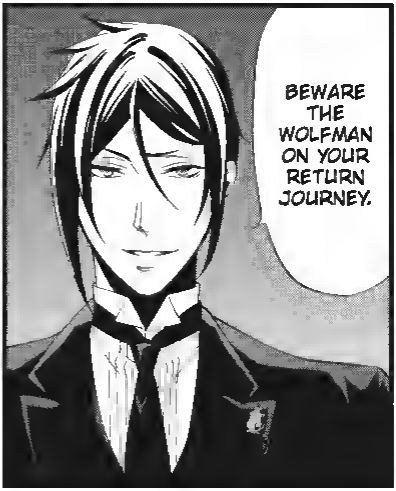
...IN THAT CASE...
FOR-GIVE ME.

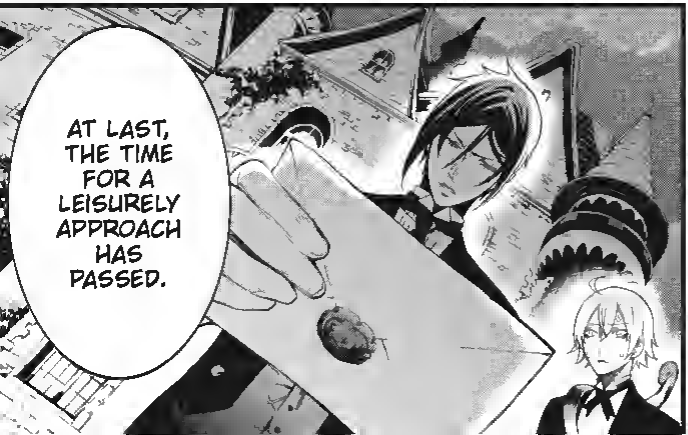
.....!
THIS IS—!

KASA (RUSTLE)

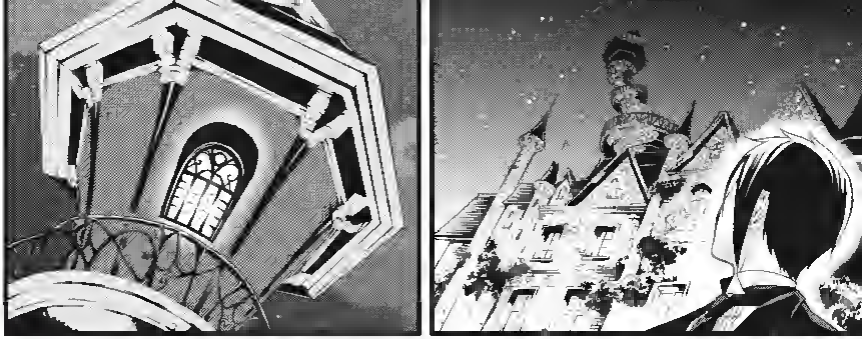
ZA (CRUNCH)
WELL...
...I'VE SEEN THE DELIVERY OF THE LETTER THROUGH.
SO IF YOU'LL EXCUSE ME.
SHAAA (HISS)
!?


CHEERS.
DO TAKE CARE OF THE EARL.


BEWARE THE WOLFMAN ON YOUR RETURN JOURNEY.


AT LAST, THE TIME FOR A LEISURELY APPROACH HAS PASSED.

...NOW, THEN.

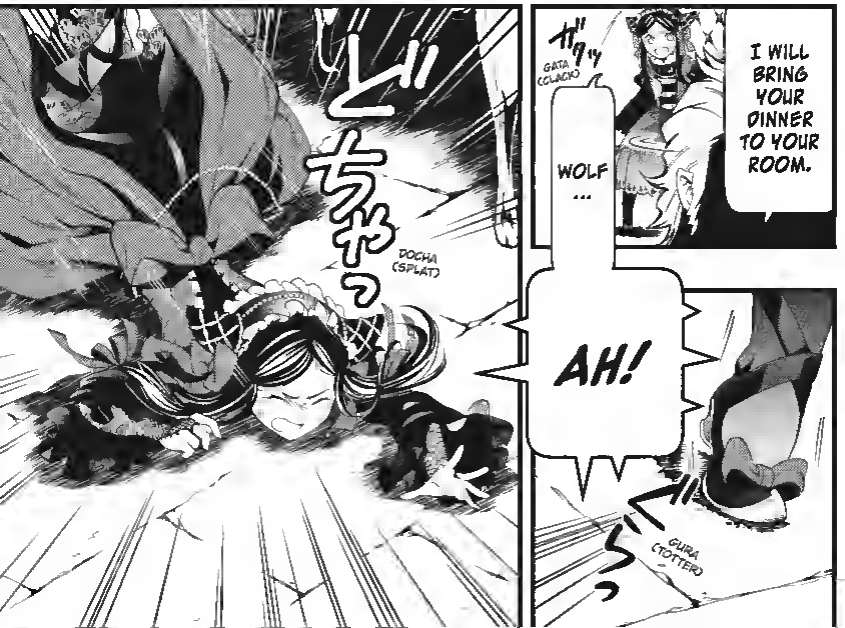


IT IS NEARLY TIME FOR DINNER...
GII (CREAK)
MY LADY.
KON (KNOCK)
KON

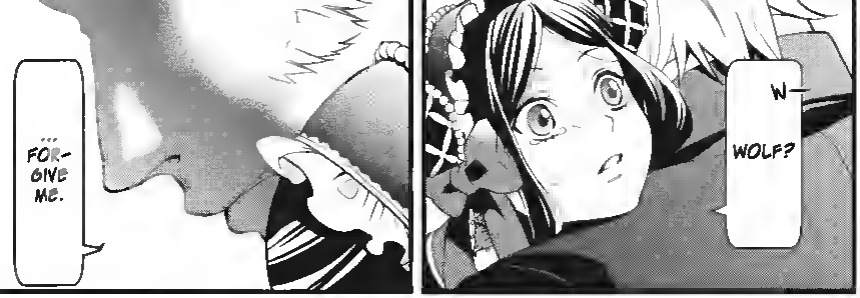
WOLF.
WHEN YOU SEE THEM OFF TOMORROW... CAN I TRULY NOT JOIN YOU?
YES.
ALL RIGHT.
THE FAMILY PHYSICIAN
.....
PLEASE LISTEN TO ME, MY LADY.
IF ANYTHING HAPPENED TO YOU, WE VIL-LAGERS —!
I KNOW THAT!
NO.
THE WERE-WOLVES' FOREST IS A DANGEROUS PLACE.
BUT...

I KNOW THAT WELL...
BUT!
EVEN IF IT'S JUST A BIT...
...I STILL WANT TO SEE THE WORLD OUTSIDE!
PORO (TEARS)
(CLUTCH)
I WANT TO KNOW MORE ABOUT THE WORLD CIEL AND HIS FRIENDS LIVE IN!
WOLFRAM!
.....!

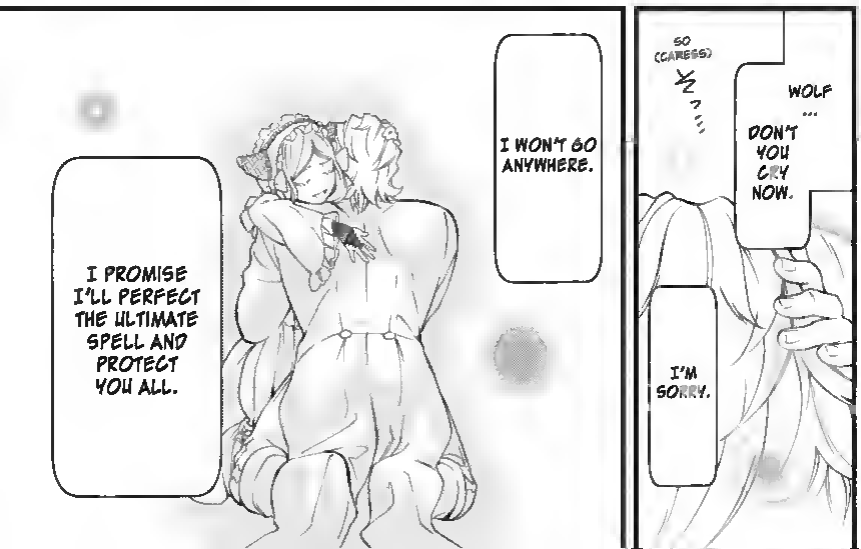
GIRI (GRIT)
I KNEW IT WAS A MISTAKE TO INVITE THOSE OUTSIDERS INTO OUR VILLAGE!
.....!
HOWEVER MUCH YOU MAY WISH FOR THAT, MY LADY...
...I CANNOT ALLOW IT.
...NO.


I WILL BRING YOUR DINNER TO YOUR ROOM.
GATA (CLACK)
WOLF ...
AH!
GURA (TOTTER)
DOCHA (SPLAT)

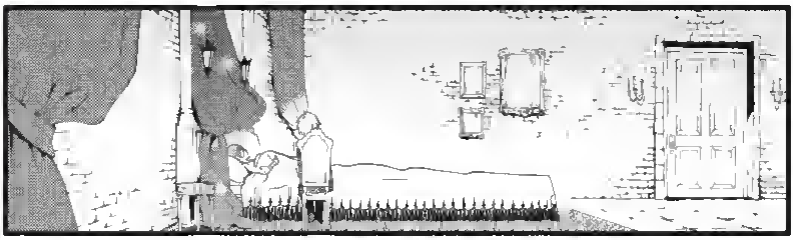
BA (RUSH)
MY LADY!
ARE YOU HURT!?
I'M FINE.
GYU (HUG)


W—
WOLF?
... FOR-GIVE ME.

PLEASE FORGIVE ME, MY LADY.
I...
I—

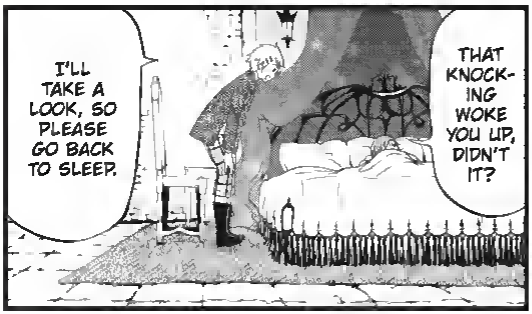

I WON'T GO ANYWHERE.
I PROMISE I'LL PERFECT THE ULTIMATE SPELL AND PROTECT YOU ALL.
SO (CARESS)
WOLF ... DON'T YOU CRY NOW.
I'M SORRY.

.....
<JA.>



PACHI (BLINK)
NN ...?
AH.

KON (KNOCK)
KON
KON


I'LL TAKE A LOOK, SO PLEASE GO BACK TO SLEEP.
THAT KNOCKING WOKE YOU UP, DIDN'T IT?

GACHA (KACHAK)
GI! (CREAK)
OH.
MISTER SEBA—
OOPS!
EH?
SU (PASH)
UH...
KOTSU
UM!?
KOTSU (CLICK)
FINNY.
WOULD YOU MIND STEPPING OUTSIDE FOR A BIT?

N—!
No!
GATA
GATA (SHAKE)
KOTSU (CLICK)
Don't come here!
KOTSU
I HAVE SOMETHING IMPORTANT TO TELL THE YOUNG MASTER.
SUTA (STRIDE)
SUTA
B-BUT —!
!
BIKU (JUMP)

CWHP (?)

P-PLEASE WAIT!
THE YOUNG MASTER ISN'T WELL ENOUGH Y—
DID YOU NOT HEAR WHAT I SAID?
PLEASE LEAVE THIS ROOM.
KUH....!
WAH! WAI—
EH!?
GUI GYANKO
SUTA
SUTA
GASHI (GRAB)

GNNN-
NGGGH
~~~~!!
ZURU
ZURU
ZURU (DRAG)
ZURU SUTA
SUTA (STRIDE)

GIII (CREAK)
YOU HAVE MY PRAISE FOR TAKING SUCH GOOD CARE OF THE YOUNG MASTER.
NOW YOUR WORK HERE IS DONE.

WAH!
DOSA (THUD)

EVEN AT FULL POWER, I COULD DO NOTHING AGAINST HIM...
WHY?

BAN (SLAM)
~~~~

コツ
KOTSU
コツ
KOTSU (CLICK)
GATA (SHAKE)
ガタ
コツ
KOTSU
GATA
ガタ
コツ
KOTSU
コツ…
KOTSU… (KACLICK)
A LETTER FROM THE QUEEN HAS ARRIVED.
!
MORE-OVER...
...IT APPEARS WE ARE TO BE DRIVEN OUT OF THIS VILLAGE TOMORROW MORNING.

NOW COME OUT OF THAT BED.
GYU (CLUTCH)
...I BELIEVE YOU ARE AWARE THAT SUCH THINGS ARE NOT WHAT YOU SHOULD BE DOING AT THIS TIME.
WRAPPING YOURSELF UP IN A FEATHER DUVET AND WALLOWING IN YOUR REGRETS AND FEARS...
I DON'T WANT TO...
I...
...DO YOU INTEND TO ABANDON YOUR DUTIES AS WATCHDOG OF THE QUEEN AS WELL?
YURA (WAVER)
—HOHH?
THEN...

IF YOU RETIRE FROM THE POST OF WATCHDOG, YOU CAN LIVE A LIFE FREE OF PAIN AND HARDSHIP.
VERY WELL.
ZURI (SLITHER)
NO ONE WILL CONDEMN YOU IF YOU DECIDE TO CURL UP IN BED LIKE THAT FOREVER.
I AM CERTAIN YOUR SERVANTS WILL TREAT YOU KINDLY.
HOW-EVER.

ABANDON-
ING YOUR
REVENGE
PART-
WAY—
THAT IS A
BREACH OF
CONTRACT.

GUWA
CBLAST?

OH, I SAY.
クルイル
(GUI CTUG)
Wha —!?
Ungh!
WHAT A TERRIBLY DULL ENDING THIS IS.
I PITY THOSE WHO WERE SACRIFICED FOR THE SAKE OF AN EXISTENCE AS TRIFLING AS YOURS.
Urgh!
ズルルル
ZURURURU CTWINE)

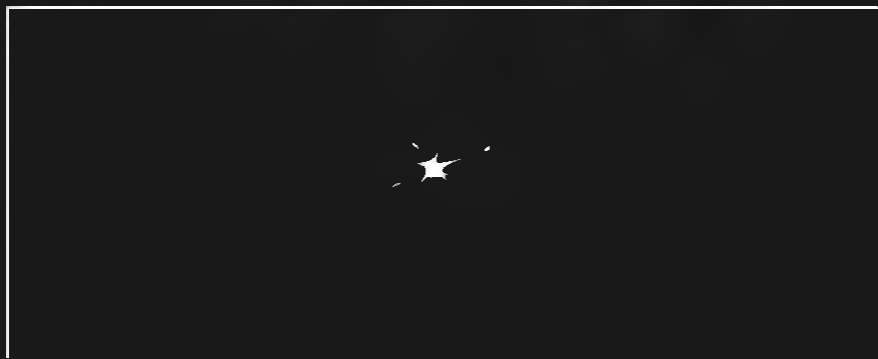
NN...!
WELL...
...TO YOU, WHO ARE NOT LONG FOR THIS WORLD NOW...
UU...
...I SUPPOSE IT IS OF LITTLE CONCERN.
GUH!
ZU
ZU
ZU
ZU
ZU
ZU
ZU
ZU

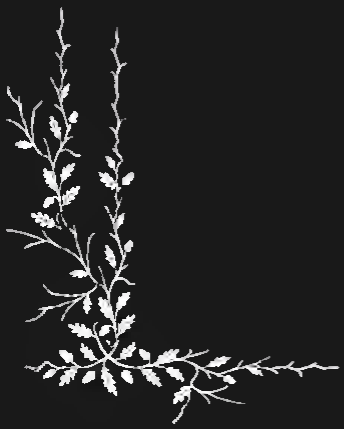
...IT SHOULD SATE MY HUNGER EVER SO SLIGHTLY
WHILE THIS SOUL IS NOT QUITE THE DELICACY I WAS HOPING FOR...

OH NO.

AM I GOING TO DIE LIKE THIS?

...AND FORSAKEN EVEN BY THE DEVIL HIMSELF ...?
HAVING YET TO CARRY OUT MY VEN-GEANCE...





Black Butler

Chapter 95

In the afternoon : The Butler, Dismayed

HAVE YOU COME TO A DECISION?

.....

WILL YOU STAY HERE FOREVER?

YOU REALLY ARE A FOOL.
NO ONE EVER ASKED YOU TO AVENGE THEM.
IF YOU KNOW...
...THEN WHY DO YOU TRY SO HARD TO SEEK REVENGE?
...I KNOW.

WITH THE POWER YOU ACQUIRED BY SACRIFICING ME.
!?
BECAUSE YOU MADE THAT CHOICE...

...THE LIVES OF SO MANY BECAME FORFEIT.
I...!
I...

NO...
DID YOU WANT ME TO FORGIVE YOU?
NO!
DID YOU WANT TO BREAK FREE FROM YOUR WEAK SELF?
NO!!
DID YOU WANT TO MAKE ANYTHING AND EVERY-THING YOURS?

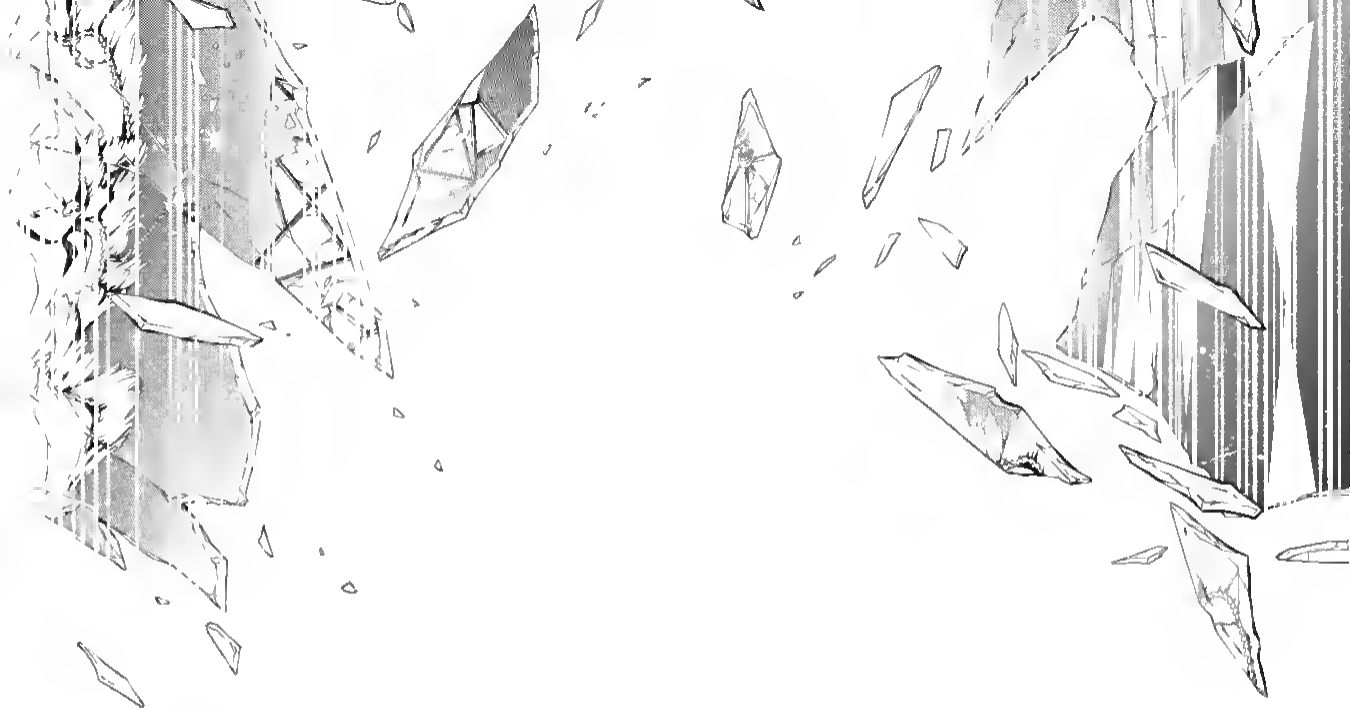
IT WAS FOR THE SAKE OF AVENGING US.
WE UNDER-STAND.
NO!!!
—SO TELL ME.

WHY DID YOU...
...SACRIFICE SO MANY...
...AND EVEN GO SO FAR AS TO WAGER YOUR VERY SOUL...
...TO BARGAIN WITH A DEVIL?
MY RATIONALE FOR MAKING A CONTRACT WITH A DEVIL...
THAT'S RIGHT.

—I...
THE REASON I DESIRED POWER SECOND TO NONE—
...AM NOT SO NOBLE THAT I WOULD RISK MY LIFE FOR ANOTHER...
...NOR AM I SO GENEROUS THAT I WOULD SIMPLY ACCEPT BEING WALKED ALL OVER AND FORGIVE THOSE WHO SEE FIT TO DO SO.

I'M A HOPELESSLY SELF-CENTRED...
...AND SELF-RIGH-TEOUS HUMAN BEING!
THAT'S WHY!!
SO THAT I...
...COULD EXACT VENGEANCE FOR THE HUMILIATION I ALONE HAD VISITED UPON ME...
...I TOOK YOUR HAND, YOU DEVIL.
I DIDN'T DO IT FOR SOME-ONE ELSE!

I DID IT FOR ME !!



SEBASTIAN!!

!
I COMMAND YOU!!
GIGHIGHI (TIGHTEN)
ZURU (SWIRL)
LET GO OF ME! THIS INSTANT!
BASTARD ...!
GUH ....
ZURURU (SLIDING)

I'VE NEVER HAD A WAKE-UP CALL AS HORRID AS THIS IN MY LIFE!!
BLAST!
ZURU (SLITHER)
ODO
KOKI KOKI
YOU DARE PERPETRATE SUCH A VILE ACT ON YOUR MASTER, DO YOU?
GEHO/ (COUGH)
WELL, SEBASTIAN!?
AAH, ALAS ...
—PLEASE FORGIVE ME.
SUU (FADE)
YOU WERE JUST FAR TOO SOUNDLY ASLEEP.

GOOD MORNING...
...MY LORD.
DOKA (KICK)
ドカ
HEH...

YOU.
YOU WERE ABOUT TO DEVOUR ME IN ALL DEADLY EARNEST JUST NOW.
OH NO, NOT AT ALL.
I WAS ONLY PERHAPS 90% EARNEST.

I'D CALL THAT A FAIRLY DONE DEAL, WOULDN'T YOU?
HMPH
MISTER TANAKA HAD ASKED THAT I HOLD OFF TAKING DRASTIC MEASURES, SO I WAS MERELY WATCHING AND WAITING, BUT...
...SINCE YOU CONTINUED TO THROW TANTRUMS BEFITTING A MEWLING BABE, I COULD NOT HELP MYSELF.

YOU BLOODY DEVIL.
DON CHICKO
WHAT KIND OF SERVANT ATTEMPTS TO EAT HIS MASTER WITH AN EXCUSE OF "I COULD NOT HELP MYSELF"?
HEH
HMPH!
SO?
WHAT CAUSED YOU TO BEHAVE IN THAT MANNER, YOUNG MASTER?
WELL...
.....
INDEED.
I AM A DEVIL OF A BUTLER.

カチャ
KACHA
(KACHAK)
I'D LIKE TO ADDRESS THE REST OF THE STAFF AS WELL.
SEND FOR THEM.
YES, SIR.
WAH!?
DODO (STUMBLE)
!?
DEAR ME.
SERVANTS STOOPING TO EAVES-DROPPING? WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS?

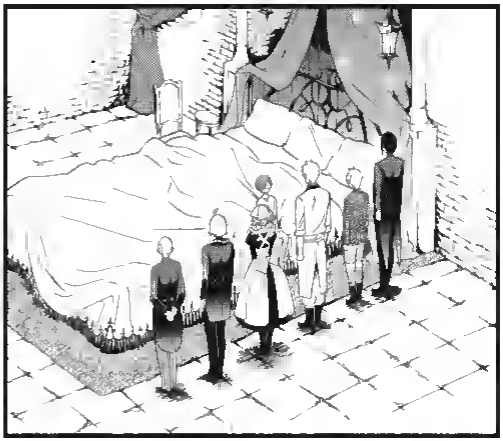
HAA (SIGH)
はあ…
YOU REALLY ARE SUCH A BOISTEROUS LOT…
HOH!
WHAT A HOT-HEAD!
—SAYS BRONTË
NO… BUT WE COULDN'T HEAR A THING…
ER, THAT'S NOT IT…
FINNY TOLD US YOU WERE ACTIN' ALL WEIRD, SOOO …!
MISTER SEBASTIAN, I CAN'T STAND IT IF YOU'RE GOING TO GET CROSS WITH US! I JUST CAAAN'T!
THE CUTS ON MY BAAACK
D'OW, OW, OW!
Y—
YOUNG MASTER!!
GABA (SLURGE)
がばぁ
WAAH!

YES, YES. STOP RIGHT THERE.
GA (GRAB)
DO
DO
DO
DO (STOMP)
DO
DO
DO
YOU'RE ALL BACK TO NORMAL, YOUNG MASTER-RRRRR!!
SWAAAAAH!!

FINNY.
SORRY YOU GOT STUCK TAKING CARE OF ME.
I'M FINE NOW.
HEH!
F-FORGIVE MEEEE ~!!
DO YOU INTEND TO SEND THE YOUNG MASTER STRAIGHT BACK TO BED WHEN HE HAS FINALLY PULLED ROUND?
AH.
RIGHT!!
R...
SOO (GENTLY) ...
RIGHT ...

THE REST OF YOU COME OVER HERE TOO.

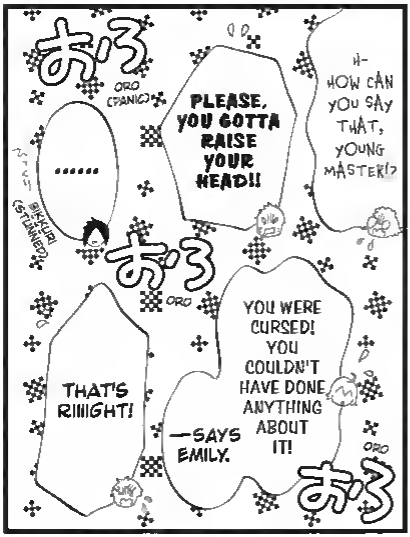
THERE'S SOME-THING I MUST SAY TO YOU ALL.



すぅ
SUU (INHALE)

I'M SORRY.

WHA-AAAA—!?
WH.....
HOH!

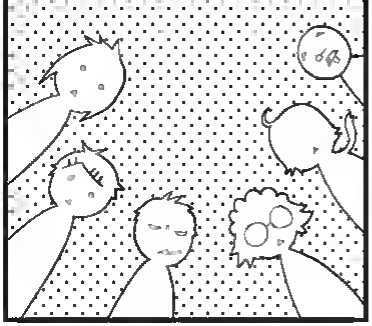

おろ
ORO (PANIC)
.....
PLEASE, YOU GOTTA RAISE YOUR HEAD!!
H-HOW CAN YOU SAY THAT, YOUNG MASTER!?
(KKURI (STUNNED))
おろ
ORO
THAT'S RIIIGHT!
YOU WERE CURSED! YOU COULDN'T HAVE DONE ANYTHING ABOUT IT!
—SAYS EMILY.
おろ
ORO

DUE TO MY THOUGHTLESS ACTIONS, YOU WERE ALL MADE TO SUFFER UNNECESSARY HARDSHIPS AND WORRY.
PLEASE FORGIVE ME.

SO PLEASE—

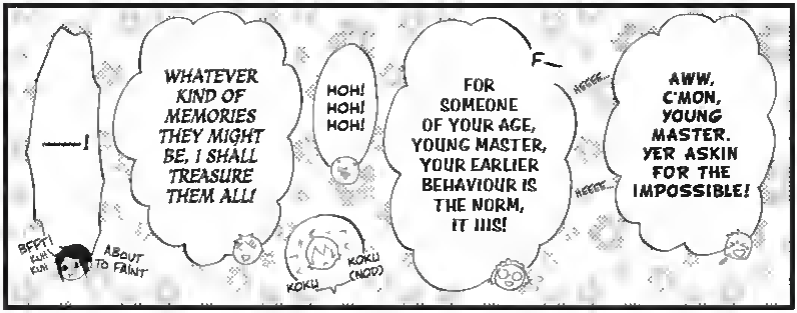
AS YOUR MASTER, I VOW TO NEVER AGAIN EXPOSE THAT MISERABLE SIDE OF MYSELF.
NO.
IT IS A FACT THAT THE ME HERE UP TILL YESTERDAY WAS STILL ME.

FROM THIS DAY FORWARD, I ASK YOU TO SERVE ME ONCE MORE.
BI (WHIP)
YES, MY LORD!
IT MAY BE A BIT SOON, BUT...
...AS YOUR MASTER, I HAVE ORDERS FOR YOU.
GAKU (FALL)
—SAYS BRONTË.
HOH!
NOW, THEN.
YOU TOTALLY RUINED IT!!
DIDN'T SEB GUESS RIGHT THAT IT DIDN'T?



FORGET EVERY-THING ABOUT THE ME WHO WAS HERE BEFORE TODAY!
DO IT RIGHT AWAY!

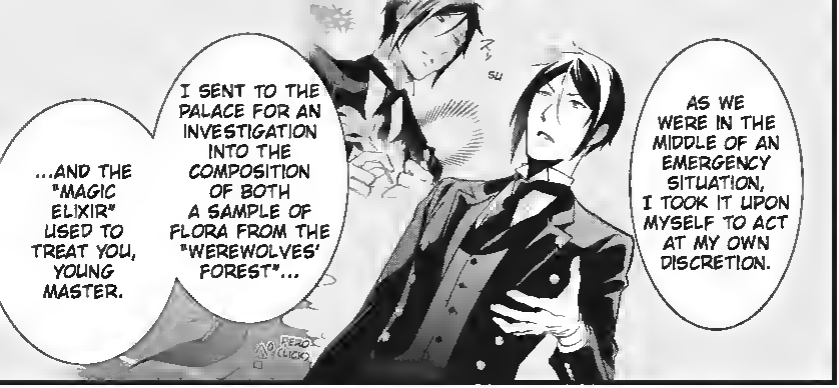
AH-HA-HA-HA-HA-HA!!
BFF...!
DO CHOARO

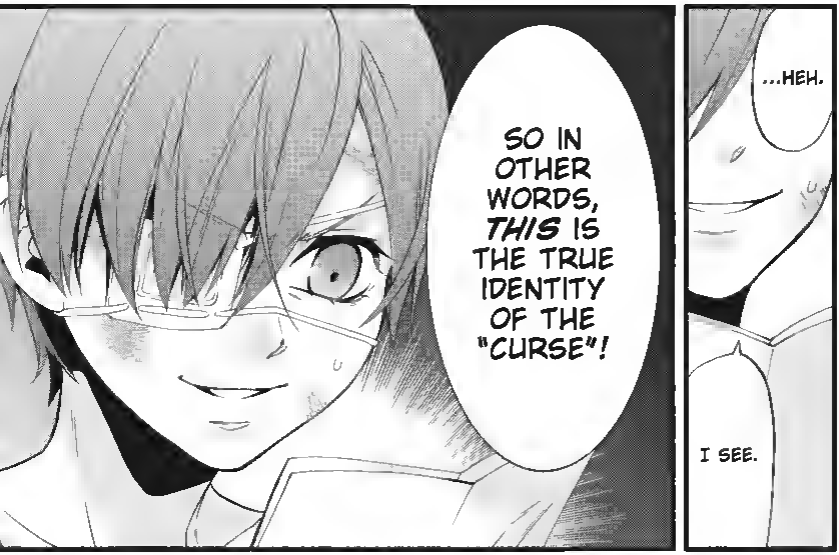

——!
BFF?! KUU KUU
ABOUT TO FAINT
WHATEVER KIND OF MEMORIES THEY MIGHT BE, I SHALL TREASURE THEM ALL!
HOH! HOH! HOH!
KOKU
KOKU (NOD)
FOR SOMEONE OF YOUR AGE, YOUNG MASTER, YOUR EARLIER BEHAVIOUR IS THE NORM, IT IIIS!
HEEEE...
HEEEE...
AWW, C'MON, YOUNG MASTER. YER ASKIN FOR THE IMPOSSIBLE!

UU...!
THE SOONER I CAN FORGET IT, THE BETTER...
YES...
...YOU REMEMBER EVERYTHING, YOUNG MASTER?
OH!
DOES THAT MEAN ...

WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
I DIDN'T ACT LIKE THAT BECAUSE I WANTED TO.
...YOU SEE THAT SORTA THING A LOT ON THE BATTLE-FIELD, DON'CHA?
HARMLESS THINGS SEEMED TERRIFYING, AND...
IT'S HARD FOR ME TO VERBALISE IT...
...I COULDN'T CONTROL MYSELF...
...SO I GUESS YOU MIGHT SAY IT'S A GIVEN THAT THE YOUNG MASTER ENDED UP LIKE THAT...
IT'S PRETTY COMMON...
NO MATTER HOW WELL THEY'VE BEEN TRAINED, WHEN SOLDIERS SUSTAIN GRAVE, UNIMAGINABLE INJURIES IN BATTLE, THEY ALL PANIC.

"AIMS"?
HOW DO YOU MEAN?
PERHAPS THE ATTACK ON YOUR MIND WAS ALSO AMONGST ITS AIMS.
INDEED.
UNDER THE EFFECT OF THE "CURSE," YOUR APPEARANCE WAS QUITE DRAMATIC.
KASA (RUSTLE)
SU (SWF)
!
PLEASE TAKE A LOOK AT THIS.
C4H8CL2S
NaOCL
C4...
IS IT SOME KIND OF CIPHER?
...WHAT IS THIS?


AS WE WERE IN THE MIDDLE OF AN EMERGENCY SITUATION, I TOOK IT UPON MYSELF TO ACT AT MY OWN DISCRETION.
I SENT TO THE PALACE FOR AN INVESTIGATION INTO THE COMPOSITION OF BOTH A SAMPLE OF FLORA FROM THE "WEREWOLVES' FOREST"...
...AND THE "MAGIC ELIXIR" USED TO TREAT YOU, YOUNG MASTER.
PERO (CLICK)


SO IN OTHER WORDS, *THIS* IS THE TRUE IDENTITY OF THE "CURSE"!
...HEH.
I SEE.

...IS ATTEMPTING TO PERFECT THE "ULTIMATE SPELL."
AND LADY SULLIVAN, AT THE WOLFMAN'S REQUEST...
JUST SO.

!!
KASA (RUSTLE)
HM?
THE LETTER GOES ON...
AS ALWAYS, SHE ASKS FOR THE IMPOSSIBLE ...!
KUSHA (CRUMPLE)
P.S.
IT WOULD GIVE ME GREAT PLEASURE IF THE LITTLE WITCH WOULD COME TO TEA WITH ME.
—VICTORIA

Black Butler

Chapter 96

In the evening : The Butler, Encouraging

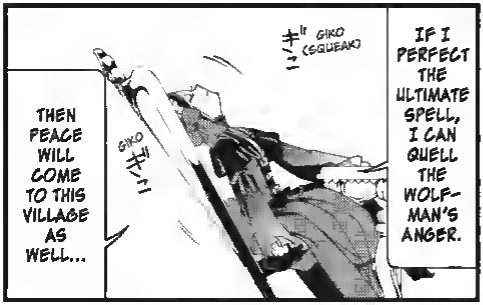
TA
CRUNCH!

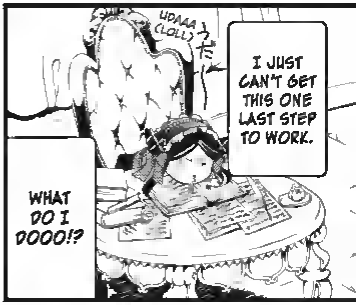
!?
HALT!
THIS AREA IS FORBIDDEN TO CIVILIANS!

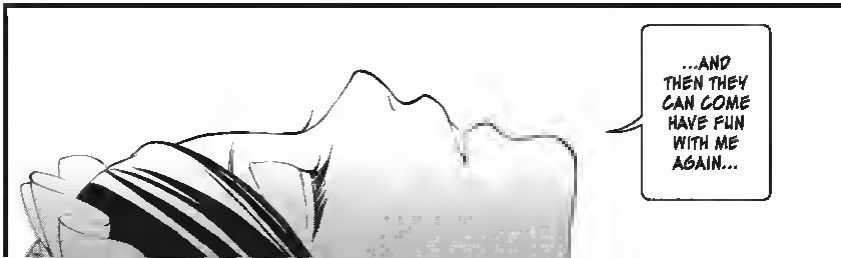
I AM ON A TOP SE-CRET MIS-SION.
KA (CLACK)
SPEAK OF THIS TO NO ONE.
YES, SIR!
DO I LOOK LIKE A CIVIL-IAN TO YOU?
EH? ...AH!!
I BEG YOUR PARDON, SIR!!
OH?
IS THIS IT...?
PAIGA (FWIP)
ACH, I SAY!
FATHER AND SON ALIKE REALLY KNOW HOW TO PUT ME THROUGH MY PACES, THE PAIR OF THEM.
BUTSU (MUMBLE)

WHAT THE BLAZES HAS HE GOTTEN HIMSELF MIXED UP IN!?
!!
WHAT IS THIS ...!?

HAAAAH —!

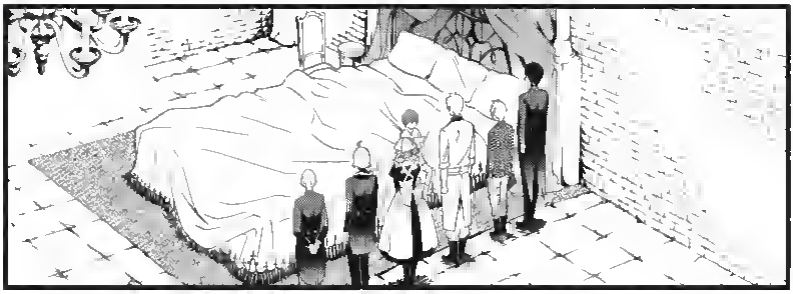

GIKO (SQUEAK)
GIKO
IF I PERFECT THE ULTIMATE SPELL, I CAN QUELL THE WOLF-MAN'S ANGER.
THEN PEACE WILL COME TO THIS VILLAGE AS WELL...

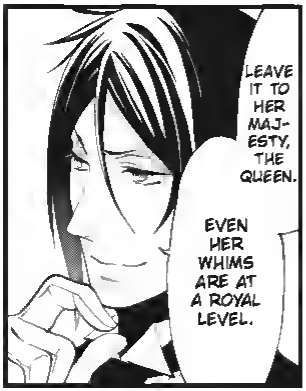

UDAAA (LOLL)
I JUST CAN'T GET THIS ONE LAST STEP TO WORK.
WHAT DO I DOOO!?


...AND THEN THEY CAN COME HAVE FUN WITH ME AGAIN...

GARI (SCRATCH)
GARI
GARI
HA (WHAT?)

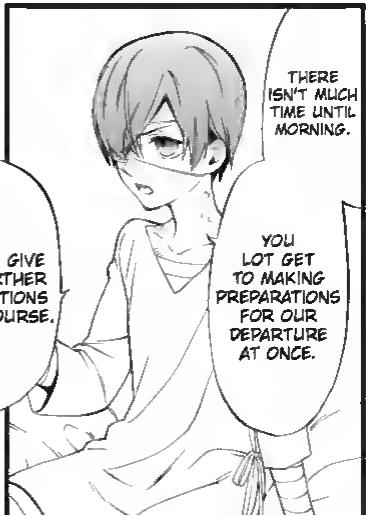
ギル…
GI
COREAKO
MY LADY, IT IS ABOUT TIME YOU WENT TO BE—
!?
WOLF.
IT IS DONE …
MAKE READY FOR MY "DUTIES" AT ONCE!
!!




LEAVE IT TO HER MAJ-ESTY, THE QUEEN.
EVEN HER WHIMS ARE AT A ROYAL LEVEL.

"IT WOULD GIVE ME GREAT PLEASURE IF THE LITTLE WITCH WOULD COME TO TEA WITH ME"— SHE SAYS?
SHE MAKES HER DEMANDS WITH SUCH EASE!

YESSIR!


I SHALL GIVE YOU FURTHER INSTRUCTIONS IN DUE COURSE.
THERE ISN'T MUCH TIME UNTIL MORNING.
YOU LOT GET TO MAKING PREPARATIONS FOR OUR DEPARTURE AT ONCE.

SEBASTIAN, SEE TO MY CHANGE OF CLOTHES.
THEN REPORT TO ME AT LENGTH THE DETAILS OF THE INFORMATION YOU HAVE PROCURED.
(CREAK)
VERY GOOD, SIR.
AFTER THAT...

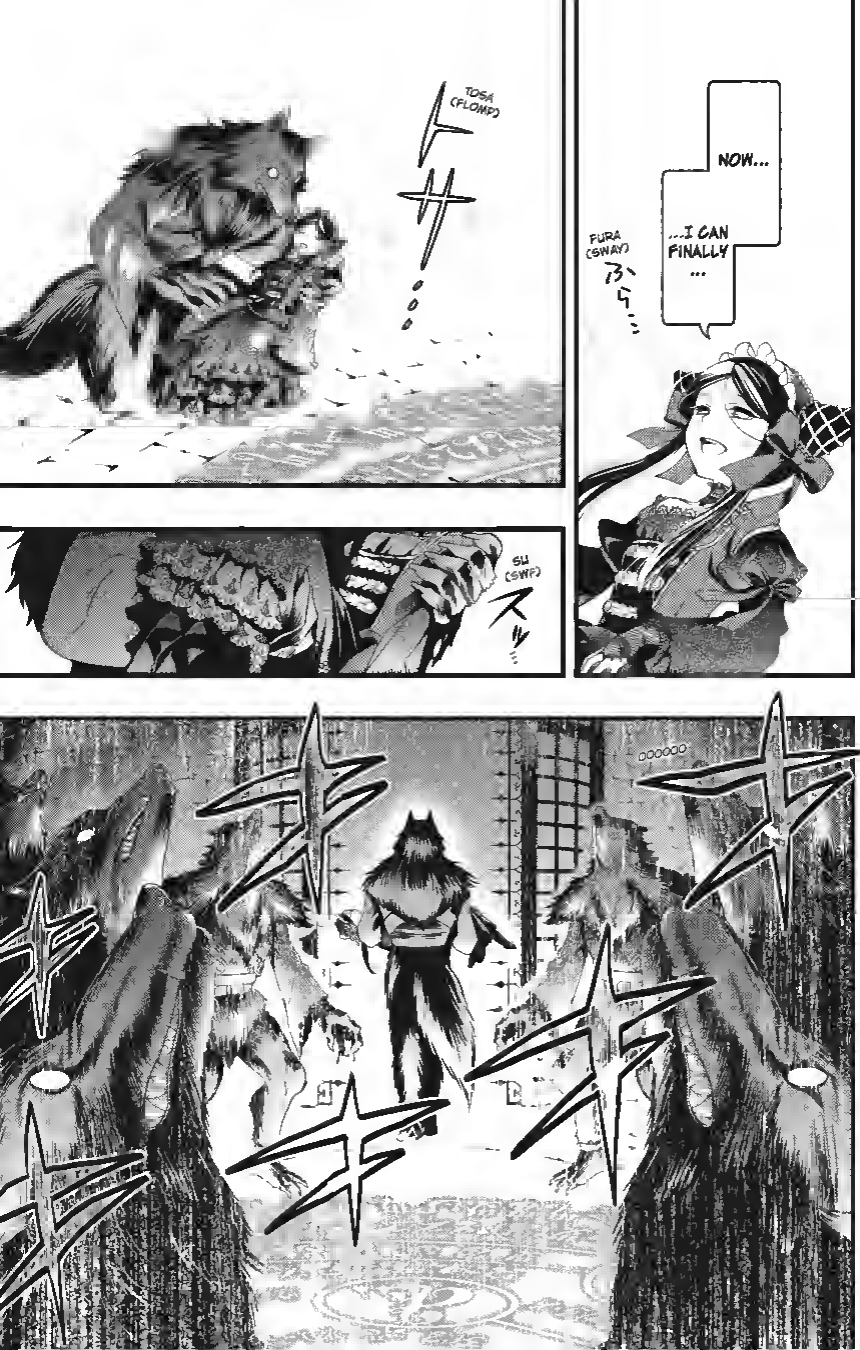
YES, MY LORD.

...A SUPREME MORNING TEA TO SNAP ME RIGHT AWAKE, IF YOU PLEASE.

OOOOO (WHOOOSH)

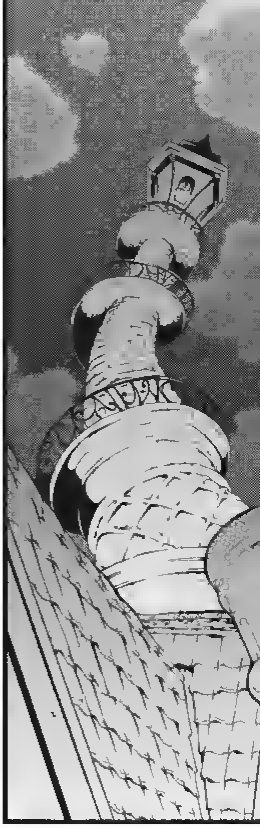
FUON (GLOW)
THE PACT WE MADE WITH ONE ANOTHER IN A BYGONE TIME—
SU (SWF)
I, DESCENDANT OF THE EMERALD WITCH, SHALL, AT LONG LAST, DELIVER MY END, HERE AND NOW!
GARAN (CLATTER)
O WOLF MEN!
TAKE HEED OF THE MAGIC I CAST HERE.
THIS IS—

THE ULTI-MATE SPELL !!
OOOOO (HOWL)


TOSA (FLOMP)
NOW...
...I CAN FINALLY ...
FURA (SWAY)
SU (SWF)
DDDDDD

ぱち…
PACHI (BLINK)

ARE YOU AWAKE NOW?
WOLF...

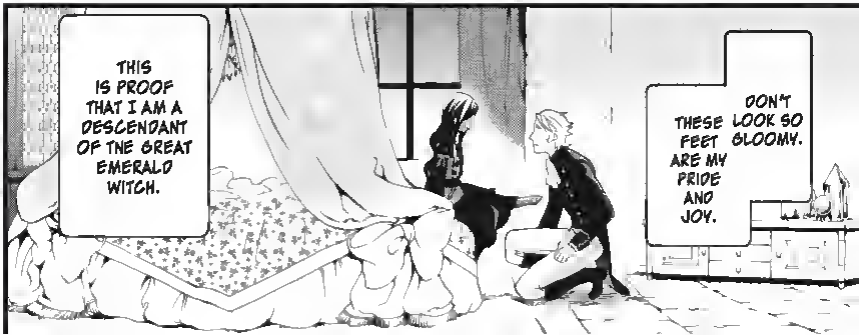


MY LADY.
MOST MAGNIFICENTLY DONE.
NOW, PLEASE CHANGE INTO YOUR NIGHT-CLOTHES.

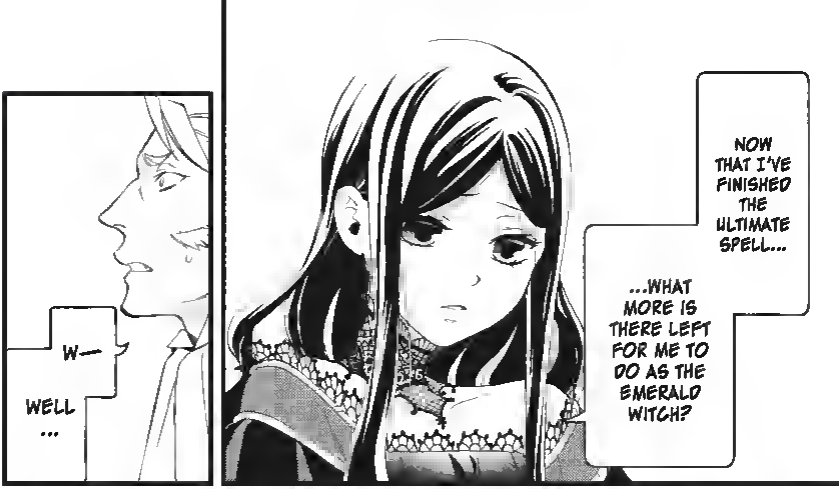
NUKU (RISE)
ん…
OH, RIGHT. I...
...WAS SPENT AFTER COMPLETING THE ULTIMATE SPELL...
YES.

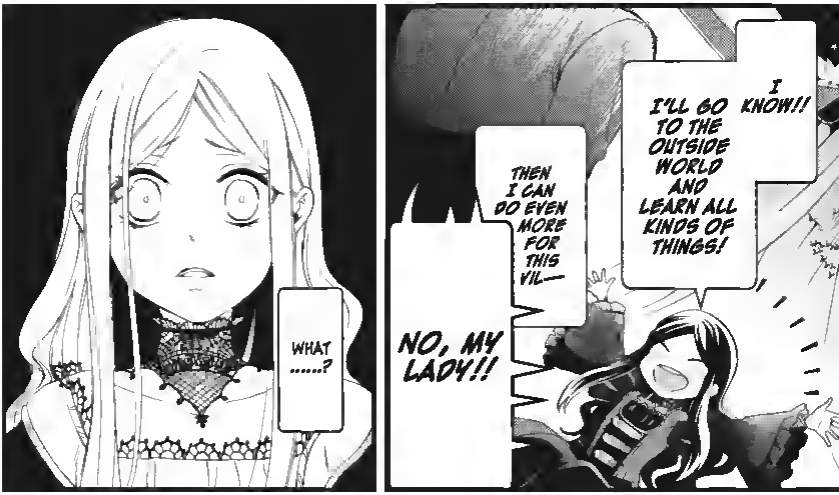
WITH THIS, WE CAN FINALLY REST EASY.
QUITE.
SHURU (UNTIE)
000
YOU'RE MAKING THAT FACE AGAIN...
FUU (SIGH)
HUH?
DO YOU REMEMBER IT?
THE DAY I SUCCEEDED THE TITLE OF EMERALD WITCH?
.....

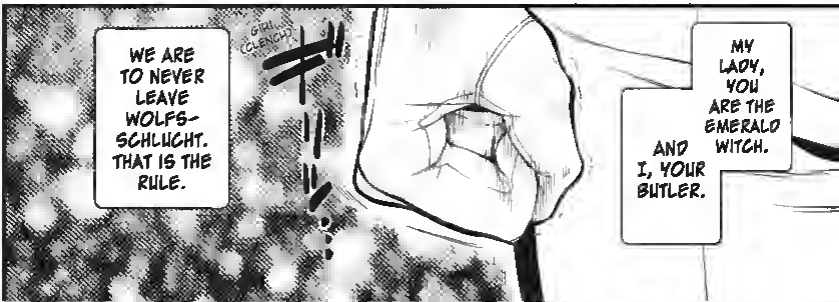
...I SHALL NEVER FORGET IT.


THIS IS PROOF THAT I AM A DESCENDANT OF THE GREAT EMERALD WITCH.
DON'T LOOK SO GLOOMY. THESE FEET ARE MY PRIDE AND JOY.

THOUGH I CAN NO LONGER RECALL HER FACE...
I'M GLAD I WAS ABLE TO FULFILL ONE OF THE EMERALD WITCH'S DUTIES TODAY.
OF COURSE, MY LADY!
...IS ALSO GLAD FOR ME?
...I WONDER IF THE PREVIOUS EMERALD WITCH, WHO GAVE BIRTH TO ME...
BUT—
TEE HEE HEE!
TERE (BLUSH)
EVERY-ONE IS TERRIBLY PROUD OF YOU, MY LADY.


W—
WELL ...
NOW THAT I'VE FINISHED THE ULTIMATE SPELL...
...WHAT MORE IS THERE LEFT FOR ME TO DO AS THE EMERALD WITCH?


WHAT .....?
NO, MY LADY!!
THEN I CAN DO EVEN MORE FOR THIS VIL—
I'LL GO TO THE OUTSIDE WORLD AND LEARN ALL KINDS OF THINGS!
I KNOW!!


WE ARE TO NEVER LEAVE WOLFS-SCHLUCHT. THAT IS THE RULE.
GIRL CLENCH!
MY LADY, YOU ARE THE EMERALD WITCH.
AND I, YOUR BUTLER.

I'LL DO AS YOU SAY.
... VERY WELL.
AH...
I'LL BRING YOUR NIGHT THINGS FOR YOU.
...MY LADY, YOU MUST BE VERY TIRED TODAY.
PLEASE GET SOME REST NOW.
SUUU (ZZZ)
SHA (SHWIP)
WHAT IS THAT ...?
KON KON KON
HNN ...?
KON KON KON
むく (MUKU) (RISE)
NN...
KON KON (KNOCK)

GOOD EVENING, LADY SULLIVAN.
!?

H—
HOW DID YOU GET HERE!?
GACHA
YOU'LL SURELY DIE IF YOU FALL!
C-CIEL, YOU'VE REGAINED YOUR SANITY ...!
WHY THE SHOCK?
YOU'RE A WITCH WHO CAN FLY THE SKIES ON A BROOM, AREN'T YOU?
SUTO (LAND)
YES.
THANKS TO YOU.
I WANTED TO EXPRESS MY GRATI-TUDE BEFORE WE DEPARTED.
HA (GASP)
YOU DON'T NEED TO THANK M—

NGUH!
Shh-
WE HAVE INSTEAD ...
...PREPARED THAT WHICH YOU MOST DESIRE.
HA HA HA..
I SEE. THIS IS ONE OF THOSE "PAY WITH YOUR BODY" SITUATIONS, ISN'T IT ...?
YOU'VE DECIDED TO TREAT ME TO A FEAST SERVED ON YOUR NAKED BODY, HAVEN'T YOU?
HOW VERY FASCINATING..
NG !!!
WHAT I MOST DESIRE...
...YOU SAY?
"THE WORLD BEYOND THE FOREST."

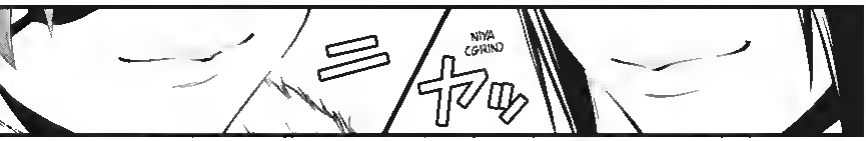
THE WORLD... BEYOND!?
I'M THE EMERALD WITCH... AND THE VILLAGE RULES STATE...
—I SEE.
THAT'S MOST UNFOR-TUNATE.
B— BUT!
INDEED.
KNOWLEDGE AND EXPERIENCES THAT YOU WOULD NEVER BE ABLE TO GAIN SHOULD YOU STAY HERE IN THIS VILLAGE AWAIT YOU.
WHAT DO YOU SAY?
.....
KURU (RWIP)
I APOLOGISE FOR MAKING AN ODD SUGGESTION.
AH...
THEN, SHUT THE WINDOW AS YOU ARE AND RETURN TO YOUR BED...
...AND COME MORNING, WE'LL BE GONE, HAVING BEEN NO MORE THAN A DREAM.

THANK YOU...
...FRIEND.
GOOD-BYE.

GU (CLENCH)
...!

I—
I'LL GO ...!!
GYU (TUG)

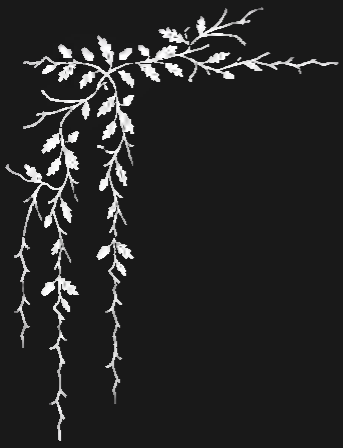
GARAN (CLATTER)



※A YOUNG WOMAN FROM A GOOD FAMILY WHO IS EITHER ABOUT TO MAKE HER DEBUT IN SOCIETY OR HAS JUST MADE HER DEBUT

NOW, THEN. YOUR HAND, MY LADY.
A DÉBUTANTE※ MUST BE IN FULL REGALIA AS SHE TAKES HER FIRST STEP INTO A NEW WORLD.
THEN, MY LADY. ALLOW ME TO HELP YOU INTO MORE SUITABLE CLOTHING.

WE SHALL ESCORT YOU INTO THE WORLD UNKNOWN.



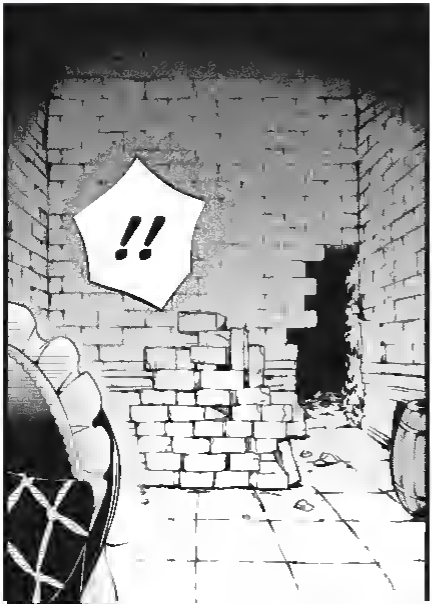
Black Butler

Chapter 97

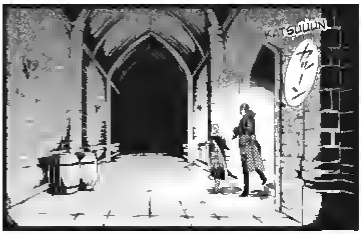
At night : The Butler, Fascinated

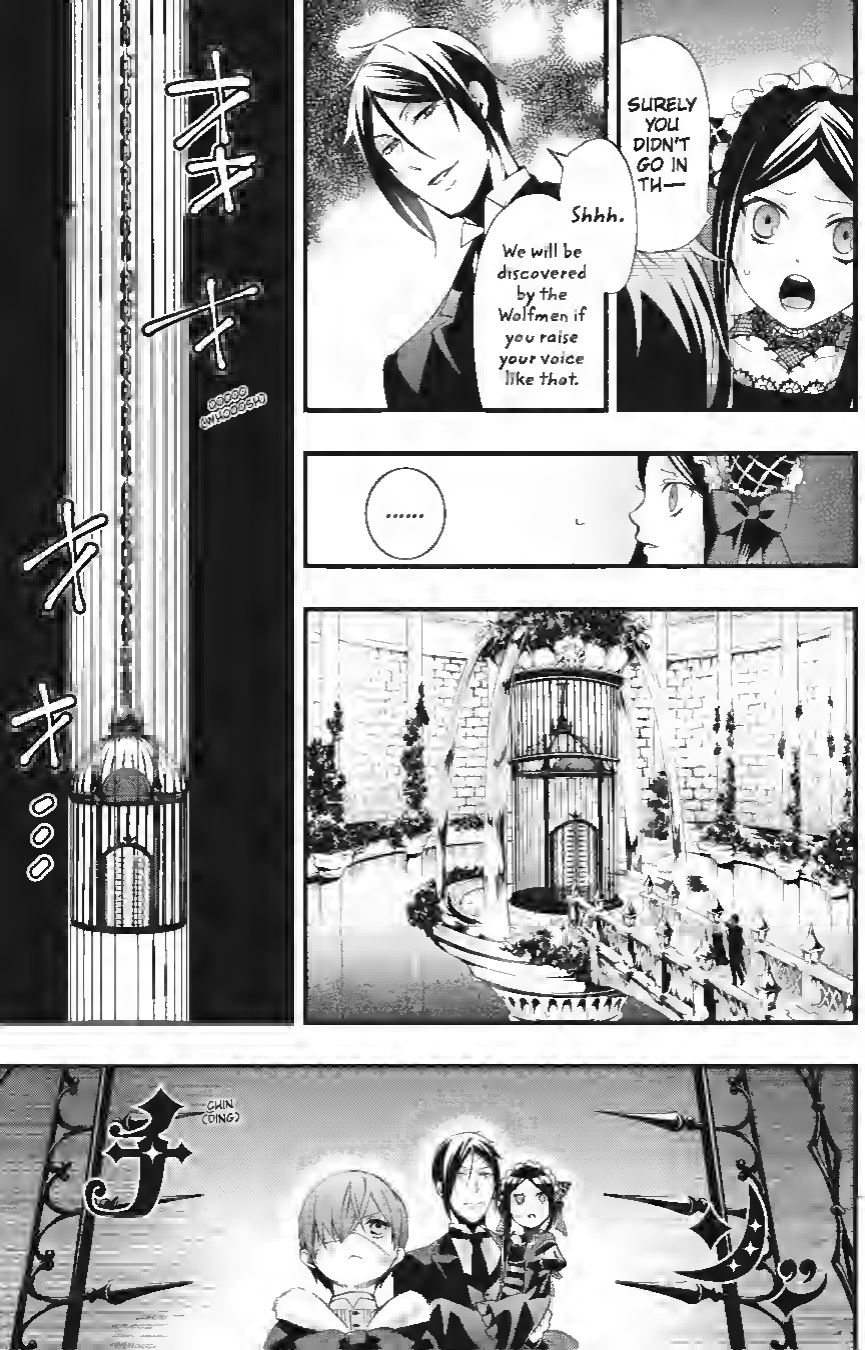
HEY... WHERE ARE WE HEADED?
NEVER MIND "OUTSIDE," WE'RE ONLY GOING DEEPER AND DEEPER "INSIDE" THE EMERALD CASTLE

KATSULUN (CLANG)
KATSULUN


!!

THE "OUTSIDE WORLD" EXISTS PAST HERE.


KATSULUN


キキキ
GOGOGO (WHOOSH)
キキキ…
SURELY YOU DIDN'T GO IN TH—
Shhh.
We will be discovered by the Wolfmen if you raise your voice like that.
……
CHIN (DING)

SO THIS IS A MAGIC CIRCLE... HUH?

PERFECTING THIS WAS ONE OF YOUR "EMERALD WITCH'S DUTIES," WAS IT NOT?

.....

A LITTLE SNAKE TOLD ME.
HEH
!?
HOW DID YOU KNOW THAT!?

I AM NO WARLOCK.
MERELY A DEVIL OF A BUTLER.
YOU CAN CONVERSE WITH SNAKES...
ARE YOU PERHAPS A WARLOCK?*

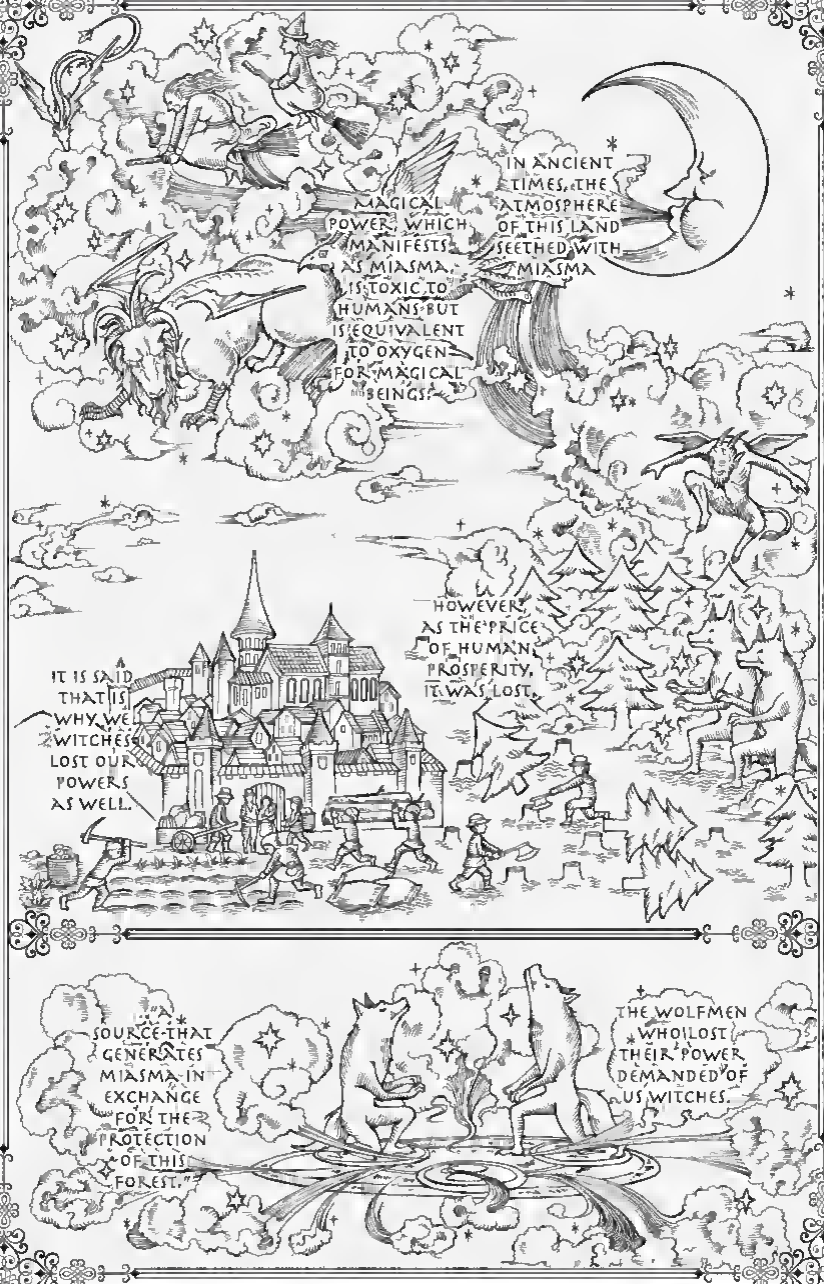
*A MALE WITCH

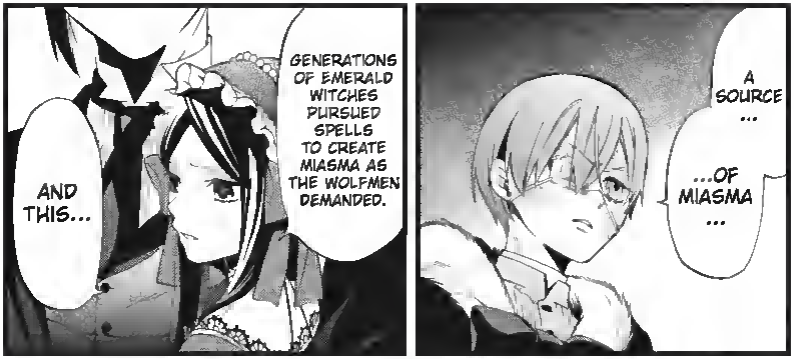
SO THESE "EMERALD WITCH'S DUTIES," WHAT ARE THEY?
DO THEY HAVE SOMETHING TO DO WITH THE REASON YOU'RE NOT ALLOWED TO LEAVE THIS PLACE?

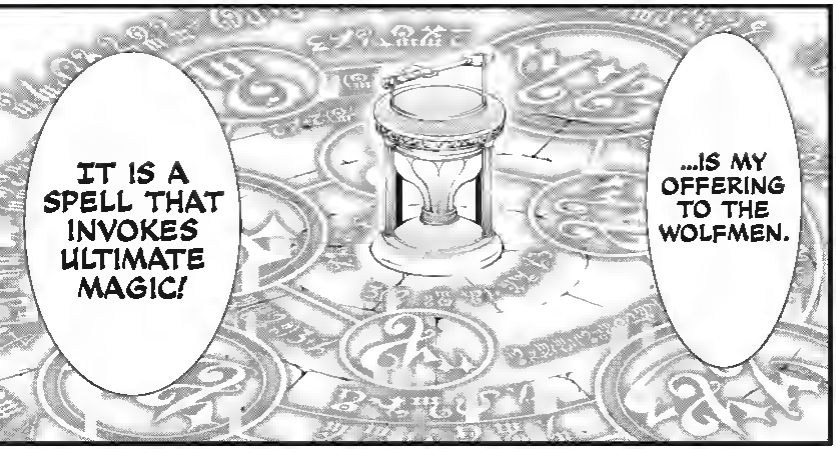
YOU ARE IN POSSESSION OF UNBELIEVABLE TALENTS THAT ARE NIGH ON MAGICAL...
YOUR SUPERIOR GENES... I WANT THEM!
HEY.
ENOUGH OF YOUR IDLE TALK!
ARE YOU TRYING TO TURN MY BUTLER INTO A CRIMINAL?
NAH NAH NAH...

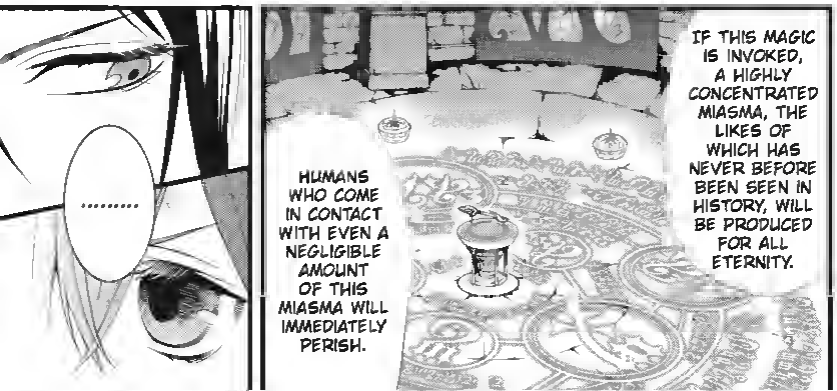
I TOLD YOU THAT THE WOLFMAN POSSESSES "EVIL MAGICAL POWER THAT BRINGS HARM TO HUMANS"—
IN OTHER WORDS, THE "MIASMA" IN WHICH IT'S CLOAKED, RIGHT?

.....


MAGICAL POWER, WHICH MANIFESTS AS MIASMA, IS TOXIC TO HUMANS BUT IS EQUIVALENT TO OXYGEN FOR MAGICAL BEINGS.
IN ANCIENT TIMES, THE ATMOSPHERE OF THIS LAND SEETHED WITH MIASMA
HOWEVER, AS THE PRICE OF HUMAN PROSPERITY, IT WAS LOST.
IT IS SAID THAT IS WHY WE WITCHES LOST OUR POWERS AS WELL.
"A SOURCE THAT GENERATES MIASMA IN EXCHANGE FOR THE PROTECTION OF THIS FOREST."
THE WOLFMEN WHO LOST THEIR POWER DEMANDED OF US WITCHES.


GENERATIONS OF EMERALD WITCHES PURSUED SPELLS TO CREATE MIASMA AS THE WOLFMEN DEMANDED.
AND THIS...
A SOURCE ...
...OF MIASMA ...


IT IS A SPELL THAT INVOKES ULTIMATE MAGIC!
...IS MY OFFERING TO THE WOLFMEN.


.....
HUMANS WHO COME IN CONTACT WITH EVEN A NEGLIGIBLE AMOUNT OF THIS MIASMA WILL IMMEDIATELY PERISH.
IF THIS MAGIC IS INVOKED, A HIGHLY CONCENTRATED MIASMA, THE LIKES OF WHICH HAS NEVER BEFORE BEEN SEEN IN HISTORY, WILL BE PRODUCED FOR ALL ETERNITY.

I SEE.
SO THIS IS THE HISTORY YOU HAVE BEEN TAUGHT.
THE MIASMA TO WHICH YOU WERE EXPOSED IN THE FOREST IS ALL THAT REMAINS OF AN ANCIENT SPELL.

SU (SWF)
GU (PUSH)
!
DON'T!
IF SOMEONE OTHER THAN THE EMERALD WITCH TOUCHES THAT ALTAR...
ZUZUZ (CRUMBLE)
.....?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN?
TON (THUMP)

WHAT...
...WILL HAPPEN?
A CALAMITY WILL... OH.
EH?
GAKON (CLANK)
WHA—!?
GO (CLIMBS)
GO

GOOON (WHOOM)
WHAT...
...IS THIS!?
NOW, LADY SULLI-VAN.
THE TRUE "OUTSIDE WORLD" LIES JUST BEYOND THIS DOOR.
YOU MAY STILL TURN BACK IF YOU WISH.
GYU (CLENCH)

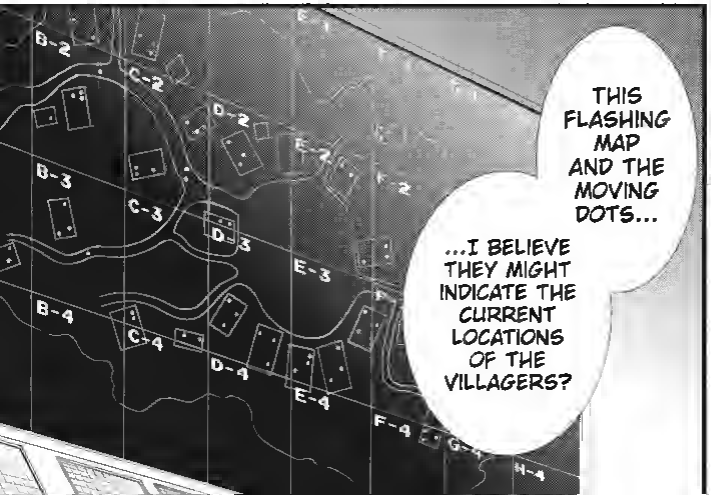
きゃっ
KYU (TIRIN)
...WE GO ON!
KACHI (CLICK)
CHIKA (BLINK)
CHIKA (BLINK)
B4
WIIIN (WHIRRR)
チ
PA (FLASH)
B4
CHIN (PING)
ゴオン
GOOON
キン

(FWOOSH)
CREAK
COME, YOU TWO.
...!
HEY.
(BEEP)

LOOK AT ALL THESE GLOWING PICTURES ...
ARE THEY A NEW KIND OF MAGIC CIRCLE?

...OH!
HUMANS DO INDEED COME UP WITH SOME FASCINATING THINGS!

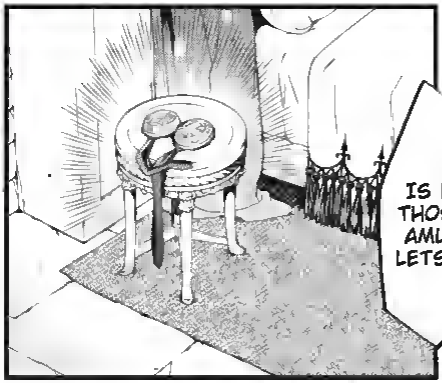
C-2
THESE DOTS OF LIGHT... THEY'RE MOVING RATHER SLOWLY.
IS THIS A MAP OF WOLFS-SCHLUCHT ?

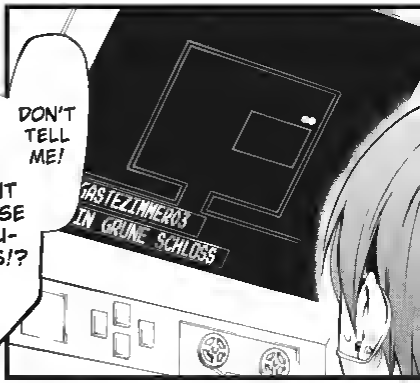

B-2
C-2
D-2
E-2
F-2
B-3
C-3
D-3
E-3
B-4
C-4
D-4
E-4
F-4
G-4
H-4
THIS FLASHING MAP AND THE MOVING DOTS...
...I BELIEVE THEY MIGHT INDICATE THE CURRENT LOCATIONS OF THE VILLAGERS?

WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

RUB-
BISH!
HOW
IS THAT
EVEN
POS—
!
HA
(GASP)

WHAT
—!?

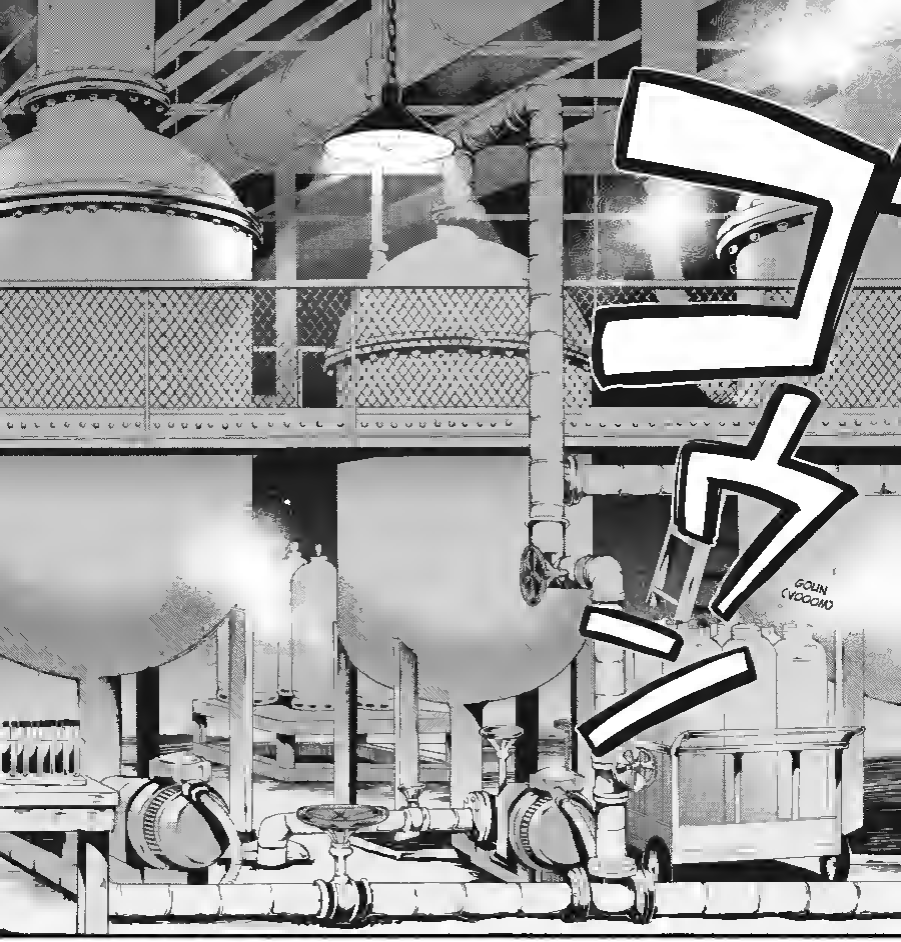

DON'T
TELL
ME!
IS IT
THOSE
AMU-
LETS!?


GASTEZIMMER03
IN GRUNE SCHLOSS

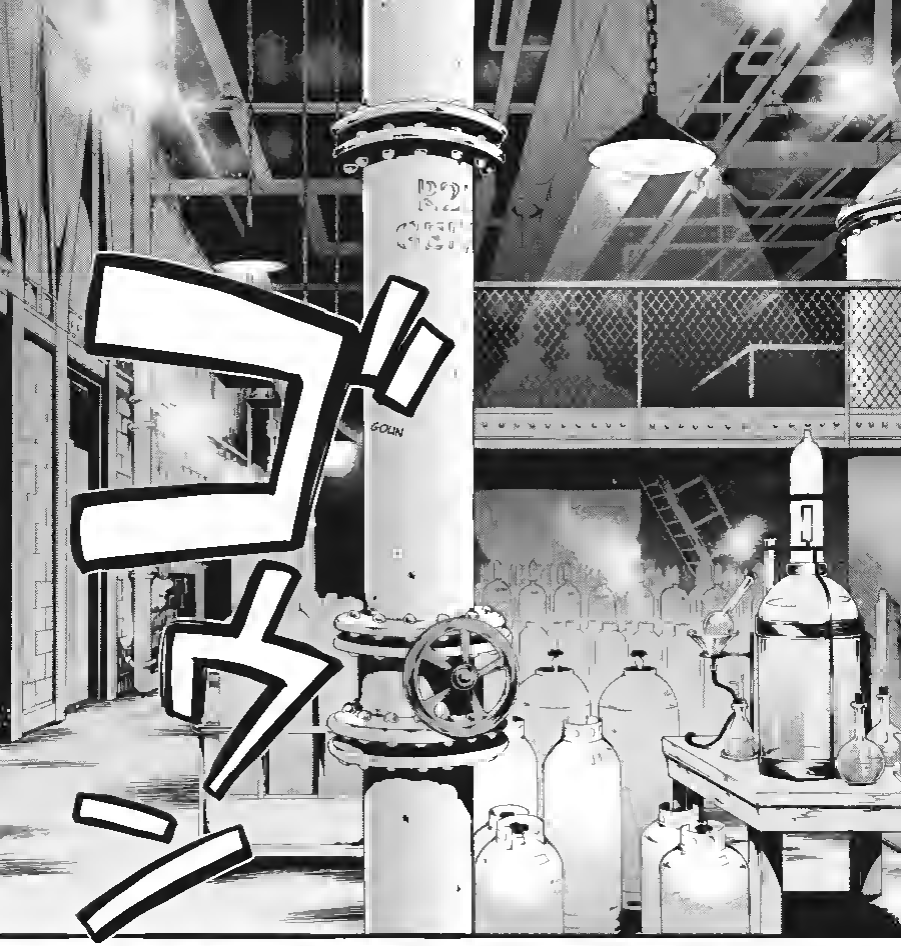
2
C-2
D-2
3
C-3
D-3
D-4
"YOU CAN
AVOID THE
WOLFMEN
AND THE
MIASMA
IF YOU
WEAR AN
AMULET."
I NEVER
IMAGINED
SUCH
ADVANCED
GADGETS
EXISTED...

YES.
THOSE
AMULETS
ARE LIKELY
TRACKING
DEVICES
THAT
TRANSMIT
SOME
SORT OF
SIGNAL...
WE WERE
RIGHT TO
LEAVE
THEM
BEHIND
...WHICH IS,
IN TURN,
CAPTURED
HERE.

SA (CHIDE)
Shh.
Someone is coming.
GABA (CLAMP)
MMPH!?
TH-THAT CAN'T BE TRUE!
THOSE AMULETS ARE MADE BY VILLAGE ELDERS OFFERING SPECIAL PRAYERS ON NIGHTS WITH A FULL MOON—
HATA (STOMP) HATA
IS IT FINISHED AT LAST!?
HEY! COME QUICK!!
GI (CREAK)
THOSE VOICES WERE ...?
LET US GO AND SEE.


ゴゴゴゴ
GOLIN (VOOOM)

GOLIN
GOLIN
ゴゴゴゴ
WHAT...
...IS THIS?


GOLIN

!
PACHI (CRACK)
PACHI
PACHI

GOLIN
GOLIN
SEEMS LIKE A FACTORY USED FOR THE PRODUCTION OF SOMETHING.
THERE IS A LIFT HERE AS WELL...

LOOK HERE!!
OUR EMERALD WITCH HAS FINALLY ACCOM-PLISHED IT!
OOOOO CROARO
THE VILLAGE CRONE ...?
THIS AMPOULE CONTAINS A CONDENSED FORM OF HIGHLY CONCENTRATED MIASMA, THE LIKES OF WHICH HAS NEVER BEEN SEEN BEFORE.
OOO
IT WILL DRAMATICALLY CHANGE THE COURSE OF HISTORY!

YOU ALL ...
WHAT ON EARTH IS GOING ON HERE!?
ZAWA (MURMURING)
G-CHAN (CLATTER)
!?

GET HER!!
GUWA (RUSH)
!!

ZAWA
ZAWA
THE EMERALD WITCH ...
IT'S THE EMERALD WITCH!!

WHAT IN THE WORLD ARE THE MEN UPSTAIRS DOING!?
BRING A CHEMICAL SUIT QUICKLY!
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT!?

WHAT ...
...ARE YOU ...?

ALL GREEN!
HOW DO THE NUMBERS LOOK!?
GOOD!

KIN (SLICE)
MISTRESS SULLIVAN.
...OH?

WHAT DO YOU THINK OF THIS, LADY SULLIVAN?
BARARA (TUMBLE)
THE "OUTSIDE WORLD" IS FULL OF SURPRISES, IS IT NOT?
DOYO (MUMBLE)
A...A HUMAN...
...MALE...!?
GOTO (RATLINK)
GAS MASKS WERE BUILT INTO THE WOLVES' LONG SNOUTS.
WHAT AN ELABORATE FARCE THIS IS.
THE WOLF-MEN ARE HUMANS IN PAPIER-MÂCHÉ.
AND THE MIASMA—

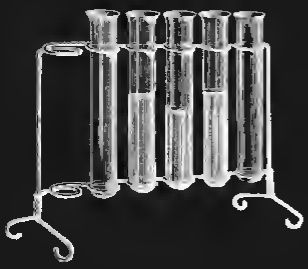
IT'S A TOXIC GAS, A CHEMICAL WEAPON ...
...MADE RIGHT HERE IN THIS PLANT!!

N...
NO...

NEITHER WOLFMEN NOR CURSES EXIST.
THEY WERE ALL FABRICA-TIONS TO DECEIVE YOU!

INDEED, WHAT YOU PERFECTED IS NOT MAGIC...
...IT IS SOMETHING MUCH MORE WONDERFUL!
THEN, WHAT EXACTLY WAS THE MAGIC SPELL
...I PERFECTED ...?
MOST LIVING, BREATHING CREATURES WILL FALL DEAD AT THE SLIGHTEST CONTACT...
...WITH THE VAPOR OF THIS LIQUID.
BE PROUD OF YOURSELF!
YOU HAVE CREATED THE MOST POWERFUL TOXIC GAS EVER KNOWN TO MAN!
OH YES.
I MUST NAME THIS CHEMICAL WEAPON THAT WILL MAKE HISTORY!
SULLIVAN.
BUTSU (MUMBLE)
LETZT WAFFE. (ULTIMATE WEAPON)
BUTSU
IDEAL. (PERFECT)
NEBEL. (FOG)
BUTSU
THE ACRONYM IS "SLEINE."
NO.

"SULIN."
I SHALL NAME IT SULIN!!
KIEEE (SCREECH)



Black Butler

CHAPTER 98

At midnight : The Butler, Responding

HA (GASP)
BI (BEEP)
BAN (WHAM)
MY LADY!!
BI!!!!
BA (RISE)
AN EMER-GENCY SIGNAL!?

KIEEE! (SCREECH)
...BUT A TOXIC GAS?
... WASN'T A MAGIC SPELL...
WHAT I WAS CREATING...
...ALL THIS TIME...
I WAS ONLY MAKING A WEAPON FOR KILLING PEOPLE...!?
THAT SPELL ...
...WASN'T MEANT TO PROTECT THE VILLAGERS.

WAS EVERYONE ...
...DECEIVING ME ALL THIS TIME!?
SAY IT'S NOT TRUE ...
...WISE WOM-AAAAN ...!!

THERE IS NO NEED FOR YOU TO CRY...
...SIEG-LINDE.

...AND RAISED IN AN ENVIRONMENT WHERE YOU COULD FOCUS SOLELY ON YOUR RESEARCH!
...BECAUSE YOU WERE BORN WITH A BRAIN UNLIKE ANY OTHER....
YOU WERE ABLE TO CREATE THE ULTIMATE CHEMICAL WEAPON...

YOU HAVE CHANGED HISTORY!
YOU DO NOT NEED TO LAMENT!

SO STOP CRYING ...
... MY...
EH ...?
YOU ARE THE LOVED ONE I LOST THAT DAY.

DAUGH
...
...TER
...
...DEAR DAUGH-TER.

...THIRTEEN YEARS AGO.
GOGO (RUMMAGE)
I WAS A MEMBER OF A MILITARY PROJECT ...

KASA (RUSTLE)
カサ…

THE PROJECT'S OBJECTIVE... WAS TO TURN A TOXIC GAS, BELIEVED TO BE IMPOSSIBLE TO MASS-PRODUCE FOR TWENTY YEARS DUE TO ITS HAZARDOUS NATURE...
...INTO A VIABLE WEAPON.
THAT GAS WAS WHAT IS COMMONLY KNOWN AS "MUSTARD GAS."

ONE GENIUS SCIENTIST DEVISED A SAFE METHOD TO SYNTHESISE IT...
...AND THE PROJECT WAS A SUCCESS.
EVERYTHING WAS PROCEEDING APACE.
HOWEVER—

AND HE PASSED AWAY—

AN UNEXPECTED ACCIDENT OCCURRED IN THE MUSTARD GAS FACTORY ONE DAY.

WE WERE ALL GRIEF-STRICKEN.
HIS BRAIN WAS THE TREASURE OF THE STATE.

I, TOO WAS TERRIBLY DISFIGURED.

HOWEVER—

HIS GENES HAD TAKEN ROOT INSIDE OF ME...
...AND SPROUTED ONCE MORE.

...AND UNDERSTOOD THE SYNTHESIS OF MUSTARD GAS!

THE CHILD WHO WAS BORN SOON DISPLAYED HER GIFTS.
SHE COMMANDED THE ENTIRE ALPHABET AT THE AGE OF THREE...

...THE PLAN TO EDUCATE A "GENIUS"...

...SO SHE COULD CREATE THE ULTIMATE WEAPON!

I ISOLATED MY DAUGHTER FROM WHAT CAN ONLY BE CALLED DISTRACTIONS TO A GENIUS. LOGIC, COMMON SENSE... AMUSEMENT, PLEASURE, AND THE LIKE... THESE AND ALL OTHER MUNDANE THINGS DID I REMOVE FROM HER ENVIRONS.
THAT IS WHY I HAD AN ENTIRE VILLAGE BUILT FOR HER.
TO NURTURE A GENIUS SCIENTIST...
...WHAT WAS ESSENTIAL WAS AN ENVIRONMENT WHERE SHE COULD IMMERSE HERSELF IN RESEARCH WHILE MAINTAINING HER MOTIVATION.
I CONSTRUCTED A WORLD IN WHICH SHE WOULD WILLINGLY STAY.
HER "DUTIES" TO PROTECT VILLAGERS FROM THE "WOLFMEN."
AN EXCEPTIONAL "EXISTENCE" CALLED THE "EMERALD WITCH."
THUS, "WOLFSSCHLUCHT" WAS BORN.

!!CRASH
THE PROJECT WAS A SUCCESS, SIEGLINDE!
YOU WERE ABLE TO DEVELOP A NEW WEAPON IN LESS THAN TEN YEARS!
YOU WERE ABLE TO IMMERSE YOURSELF IN RESEARCH BECAUSE YOU WERE HERE.
!!
MY LADY!?
GIL (SHE?
!!
BASTARD ...!!
GIRI (GRIT)

...TOO.....
YOU WERE DECEIVING ME...
LIAR!!
HOW CAN YOU CALL YOURSELF A PARENT?
YOU CRUSHED YOUR OWN CHILD'S LEGS... AND CONTINUED TO THREATEN HER FOR THE SAKE OF NEW WEAPONS...

GAN
(BANG)
CHILDREN ARE NOT TOOLS FOR THEIR PARENTS TO USE!
!!
BASHAAN
(SPLASH)

DA (DASH)
STOP RIGHT THERE!!
DA (WHAP)
SIEG-LINDE!!
DA (STOMP)
DA
DA
DA
KACHI (CLICK)
HUNT THEM DOWN!!
GET BEHIND THEM!
KUH!
DON'T SHOOT!
YOU MIGHT HIT A GAS CYLINDER!

SEBAS-TIAN!
TAKE CARE OF THE REST!
YES...
GAKOON (SHUT)
...MY LORD.

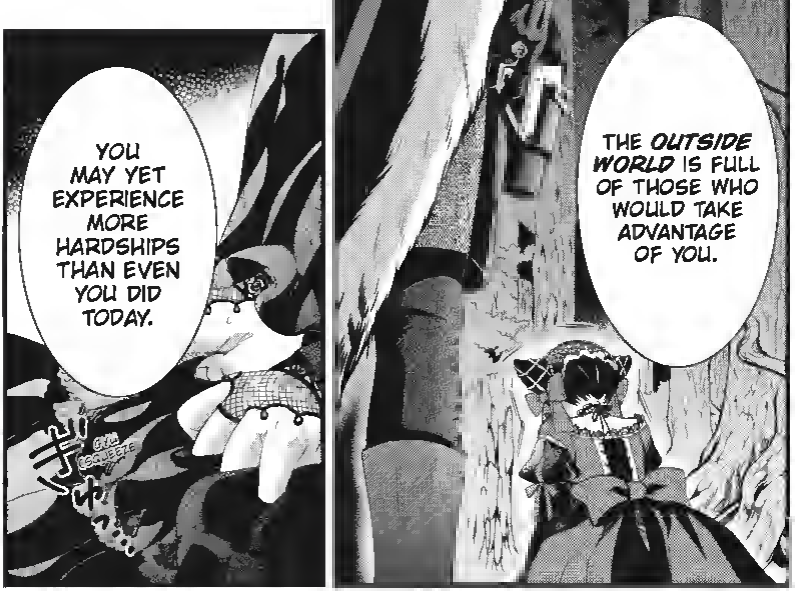
MY LADY...!
I'LL GO AFTER MY LADY.
YOU TAKE CARE OF THE REST!
<JA!!>
MY LADY WAS TAKEN AWAY BY THOSE BRITISH BRUTES!
WHAT!?
WOLF! WHAT ON EARTH IS GOING ON!?
HILDE!
AND NOW...
...SHE KNOWS EVERYTHING.

LET'S GO!
THEY SHOULD BE OUT IN AREA A23.
TA (TAP)
!
LIEU-TENANT!!
LIEUTENANT WOLFRAM GELZER.
YOU DO REMEMBER ...
!!
SHI (SHIP)

...THAT THE BUTLER OF THE EMERALD WITCH...
...IS TO DISPOSE OF HER IN CASE OF AN EMERGENCY.
GIRI (GRIT)
<JA!>
HYUN (WHIZ)
IT'S GETTING NOISY, IT IS.
IS IT ALMOST TIME?

PAN
FLASH
210

THAT'S THE BELL.
チャッ
CHI CHAK
THE BOSS'S CALLIN'!
—IT HAS BEGUN.
YESSIR!
CRASH


THE OUTSIDE WORLD IS FULL OF THOSE WHO WOULD TAKE ADVANTAGE OF YOU.
YOU MAY YET EXPERIENCE MORE HARDSHIPS THAN EVEN YOU DID TODAY.
GYU (SQUEEZE)
ピャ…!?

SO CHOOSE.
DOSA (THUD)
ドサッ…!!
WILL YOU STILL VENTURE BEYOND THIS FOREST?
OR—

WILL YOU TAKE THE EASY WAY OUT INSTEAD?
To be continued in Black Butler 21

Black Butler
黒執事

Downstairs

Wakana Haduki
7
Saito Torino
Tsuki Sorano
Chiaki Nagaoka
Asakura
*
Takeshi Kuma
*
Yana Toboso

Adviser

Rico Murakami

*

Special Thanks

Akira Suzuki

and You!

Translation Notes

Page 29

Theban alphabet

The characters used in the magic circle are letters from the Theban alphabet. This mystical alphabet is also known as the Witches' Alphabet and has long been used to write spells and inscriptions. Though of uncertain origin, the script and alphabet came into prominence in medieval times.

Page 96

$C_4H_8Cl_2S$

The "ciphers" here are actually chemical formulas. The first formula, $C_4H_8Cl_2S$, is the chemical formula for mustard gas, a powerful chemical agent used in warfare. It was first used in this fashion by the German army in 1917 during World War I. The symptoms Ciel suffers following his trip to the Werewolves' Forest are those of mustard gas exposure. The chemical agent causes serious damage to the skin, eyes, and respiratory tract. When the gas comes into contact with the skin, it can cause redness and itching and eventually blistering, during which large yellowish pustules may erupt. If one's eyes are exposed for any significant length of time, temporary blindness may occur, often lasting upwards of ten days. When inhaled, the gas may cause the infected individual to bleed from the nose, in addition to other effects.

Page 96

NaOCl

NaOCl is the chemical formula for sodium hypochlorite, which is known to neutralise the effects of mustard gas when dissolved in water (aka household bleach). This solution can play a key role in the basic steps for mustard gas decontamination—flush eyes immediately with water, remove all exposed clothing and double-seal into plastic bags before washing the skin with soap and water (or 0.5% solution of sodium hypochlorite), avoid forcing the contaminated individual to vomit, instead have them drink milk or water if it can be kept down—and appear in the rite of purification performed by Lady Sullivan in Volume 19.

Page 120

"...a feast served on your naked body..."

This is a reference to *nyotaimori*, a form of sexual entertainment where food (usually sashimi and sushi) is served using a naked woman as the platter.

Page 140

Gästezimmer03, In Grüne Schloss

The German text on the monitor reads "Guest room 03, Emerald Castle."

Page 150

SuLIN

In Japanese pronunciation, Sullivan, the name from which SuLIN is derived, begins with "sari," so SuLIN is actually "sarin," a lethal nerve agent that can be weaponised. Even minimal exposure can cause victims to perish within minutes. Sarin was discovered in 1938 in Germany by scientists who were researching stronger pesticides. The compound was named after the discoverers—Schrader, Ambros, Rüdiger, and Van der Linde. The magic circle on page 110 contains the chemical structure of sarin ($C_4H_{10}FO_2P$) written in Theban script.

Page 162

Streng Geheim: Grüne Hexe Ausbildung Projekt

The German text on the binder reads "TOP SECRET: Emerald Witch Education Project."

Yana Toboso

Author's note

At last, we reach the twentieth volume of ***Black Butler!*** When I tell people that this series was originally scheduled to be just one volume long, they say, "No wayyy!"

So I hereby declare:
If I had known this series was going to be more than ten volumes long, I wouldn't have used Roman numerals for the volume numbers!!!!!!

And so this is Volume 20 with thanks and gratitude.

Black
Exorcist
XX

An occult tale in which a young village priest exorcises (or not) a boy who has been possessed by an evil spirit after touching a statue of the devil Sebas!!

...or something

BLACK BUTLER 20

Yana Toboso

Translation: Tomo Kimura • Lettering: Alexis Eckerman

This book is a work of fiction. Names, characters, places, and incidents are the product of the author's imagination or are used fictitiously. Any resemblance to actual events, locales, or persons, living or dead, is coincidental.

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